Al-Ghozi escape alarms US; terror warning raised

Story below, COL. I

Senate body prefers Con-con to Con-ass

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

THE CHARTER change issue will finally reach the Senate floor for discussion after the Senate constitutional amendments committee voted last Monday to amend the Constitution through a constitutional convention.

There were various interpretations of

SENATE/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Miriam talks; oh, boy

By Jerry Esplanada

WANTED: Perfect "presidentiable" for 2004.

But, it looks like slim-pickings season.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is "self-indulgent."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona is "a

MIRIAM/ A18

BAKIT SIYA ANG TINANONG?

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Wednesday, July 16, 2003 ★★ 74 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 218   P15   website: www.inq7.net

Marcoses lose ₱36B

Decision hailed as 'biggest' won in 17 years

By Dona Pazzibugan, Ma. Ceres P. Doyo and Carlito Pablo

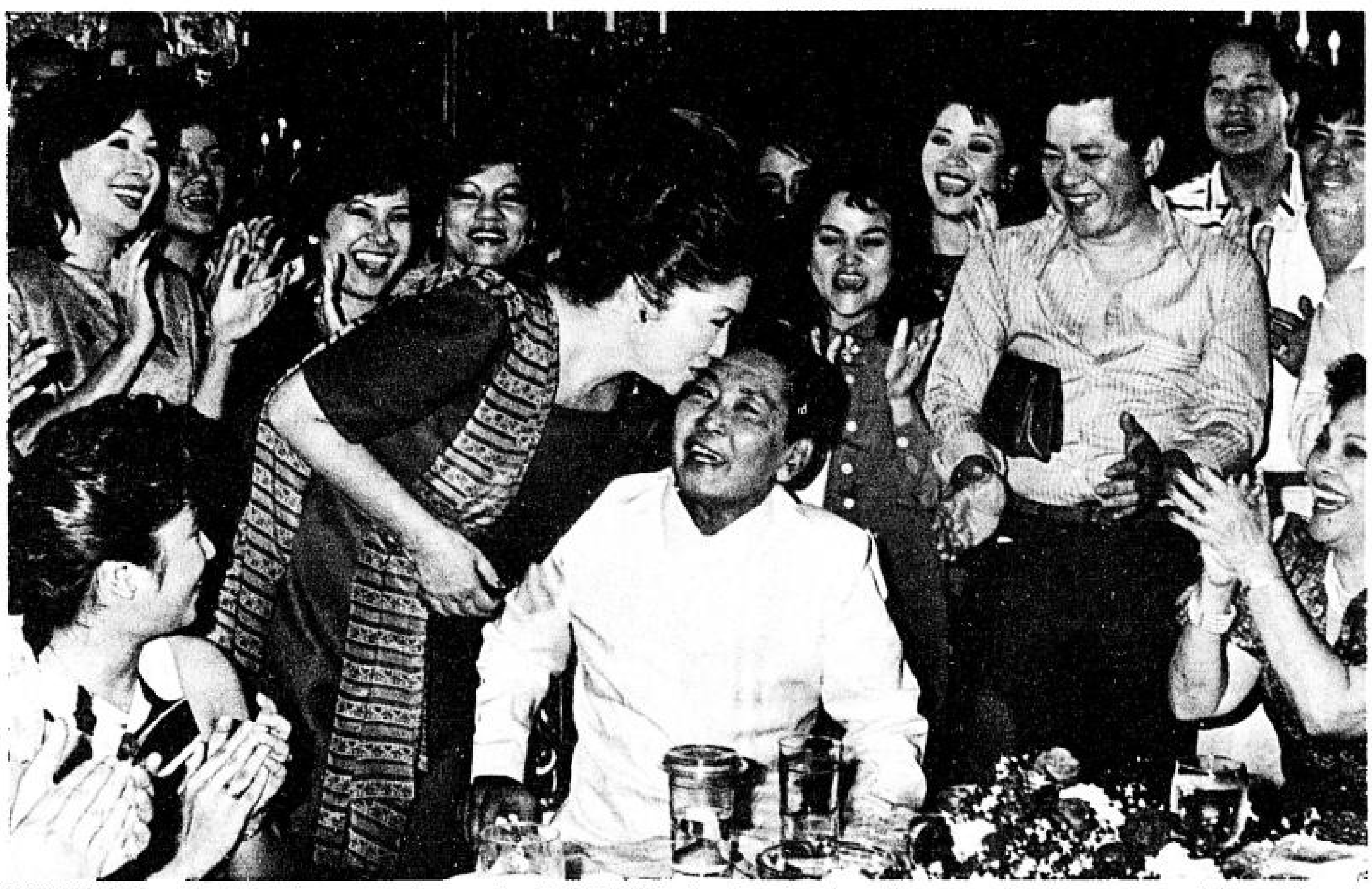
THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government is hailing the Supreme Court ruling on the $682 million escrow account as the "biggest" case it has won against the Marcoses.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said, "The high court ruling should also give added impetus to the landmark legislation now pending in Congress to allocate part of the funds for human rights victims under martial law."

PCGG officials said they were supporting efforts to compensate the human rights victims using part of the escrow amount.

PCGG Commissioner Vyva Aguirre said the ruling established that the Marcos couple and not just their cronies amassed ill-gotten

DECISION/ A19



YESTERDAY for every kiss a victory, or so it seemed on Feb. 16, 1986 when the triumphant Marcoses and their supporters celebrated the strongman's alleged reelection in the snap election. Seventeen years later, it's a victory for every Filipino over every Swiss bank deposit through five front foundations identified as belonging to the Marcoses. AFP FILE PHOTO

SC rules gov't owns ill-gotten money

By Philip C. Tubeza

"IT has been an incredible charade from beginning to end."

With these words, the Supreme Court yesterday declared ill-gotten the Marcos family's $682 million (about P36 billion) as of June 30 in Swiss bank accounts now deposited in an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank.

The Supreme Court ruling was the second hammer blow dealt by the courts to Marcos and his cronies.

The Sandiganbayan on Friday gave the government control of United Coconut Planters Bank that had been taken over by Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. allegedly with the help of public funds.

In a 100-page en banc decision, the Supreme Court also lashed out at the Marcoses for resorting to dilatory tactics in a case that "could have ended a long time ago."

The high court voted 12-0 in ordering the forfeiture of the Swiss deposits in favor of the government. The funds will go to the government's land reform program.

Justice Antonio Carpio inhibited himself during the deliberations

MARCOSES/ A19

Al-Ghozi escape alarms US; terror warning raised

AUSTRALIAN and American officials as well as international security experts yesterday warned of heightened terror threats in the region after the Philippine National Police let its guard down and allowed a convicted Jemaah Islamiya (JI) bomber to escape.

The escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, confessed author of a series of deadly bomb blasts in Metro Manila as well as of a plot to blow up Western embassies in Singapore, is considered the gravest setback to the war on terror in Southeast Asia since the Bali bombing in Indonesia last year.

Al-Ghozi, along with two Abu Sayyaf terrorists, walked out of a high-security PNP jail in Camp Crame early Monday morning. Boyish-looking and reserved, Al-Ghozi received training in surveillance and bomb making from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

"Obviously, the escape of the three terrorists yesterday here in Manila is a serious setback," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said in a speech at the end of a two-day official visit to the Philippines, which was devoted to boosting bilateral antiterrorism cooperation.

In the wake of the October bombings in Bali that claimed more than 200 lives, many of them Australians, "the investigation reveals that the Jemaah Islamiya's network is more extensive than first thought," Howard told the Asia Society in Manila.

"The JI and other groups are

AL-GHOZI/ A17

"IT'S HARD to believe that these escapes ... are the result of ordinary laxity," President Macapagal voices her suspicion during her first public statement on the "great escape" on Tuesday during her visit in Alimodian, Iloilo City, boosting DILG and police officials' assessment that it was an inside job. EDWIN BACASMAS

How they could have escaped

By Christian V. Esguerra

THEY BROKE no lock, door, window or ceiling when Fathur Al-Ghozi, Abdulmukin Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal walked out of the Intelligence Group (IG) compound in Camp Crame between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. on Monday.

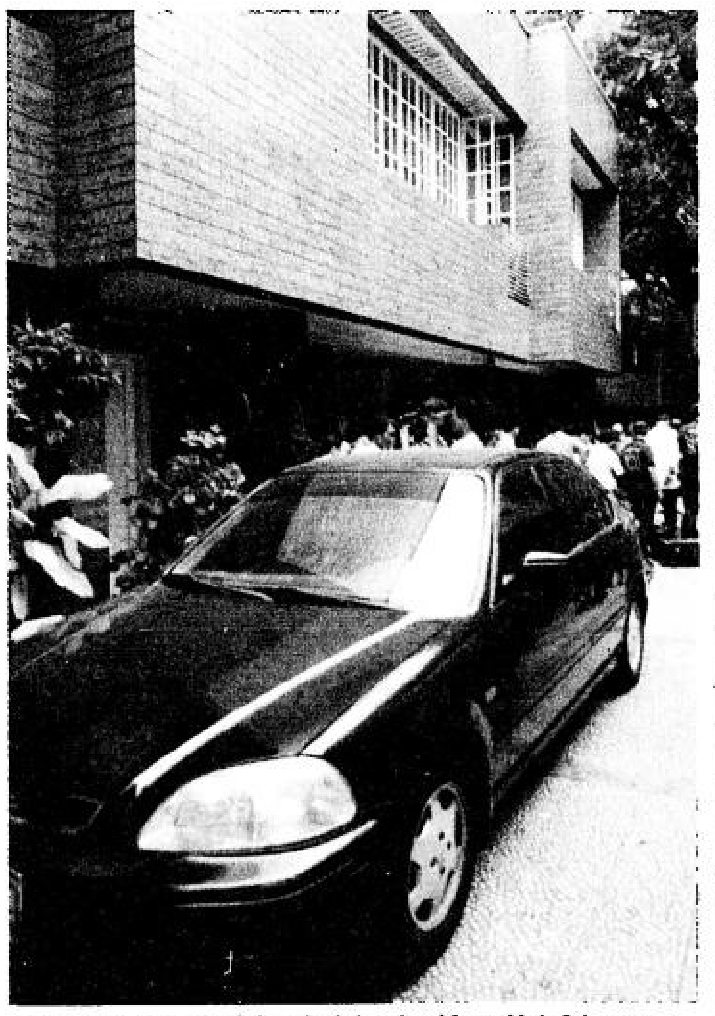
It was possible the suspected terrorists were given duplicate keys to their cells on the second floor of the IG's old building, according to Police Director Eduardo Matillano of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, who has been tasked with unraveling the mystery.

"The theory that we're really investigating here is the angle of connivance," he told the INQUIRER. "The physical security is tough and it's impossible for somebody to just walk out of the jail without any help from people inside."

So, the escape could have well been an "inside job,"police officials stressed the obvious.

Even President Macapagal was suspicions.

HOW/ A17



P1-BILLION worth of chemicals is seized from Unit 9 (extreme left) of the Horseshoe Townhomes on Matipuno corner Benitez Streets, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Indonesia, Malaysia join hunt

By Christian V. Esguerra and Nelson F. Flores

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday offered a P5-million reward for Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi as Indonesia and Malaysia joined the Philippines in "the biggest manhunt in the country" for the top Jemaah Islamiya bomb expert who escaped the other day from a highly secured jail in Camp Crame.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. and PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. also offered P2 million for the capture of Abdulmukim Ong Edris and P1 million for Omar Opik Lasal. The two suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits, walked away, along with Al-Ghozi, from the PNP Intelligence Group compound early Monday morning.

Lina said any information on whereabouts of the three terror-

INDONESIA/ A18

Townhouse near Crame yields 'shabu' chemicals

By Christian V. Esguerra and Tina Santos

A TOWNHOUSE two minutes away from Camp Crame in Quezon City yesterday yielded chemicals that could be used to produce at least P1 billion worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu."

Unit 9 of the two-story Horseshoe Townhomes on Matipuno corner Benitez Streets was leased to Leandro Go, one of four Chinese arrested during a raid on a shabu laboratory in Silang, Cavite, police said.

TOWNHOUSE/ A6

Ebdane refuses to resign, suspects foes

By Christian V. Esguerra, Michael L. Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

EVEN as ranking members of both Houses of Congress are asking for his head, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday stopped short of saying that the escape had been facilitated by people who want his job.

Still, Ebdane who completed his first 100 days in office early this month, took full responsibility for the escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf bandits from Camp Crame.

Ebdane seemed convinced that Al-Ghozi, Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal had been made to escape.

The PNP chief said there was no problem with the physical security of the old building of the Intelligence Group where the fugitives were detained.

The escape, he said, could largely be blamed on "the human factor," meaning jail guards might have facilitated the escape.

"It is the human aspect that we're looking into."

Asked during a press conference if he was planning to quit, he said that "resignation is not the solution. I must face the problem squarely."

EBDANE/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST. Eastern Visayas will have rains and occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters over these areas will be moderate to rough. Southern Luzon, the rest of Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/16/03

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Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

No quick extradition for Atong

ATONG ANG

LAS VEGAS—A lawyer for a former friend and adviser to ousted President Joseph Estrada challenged evidence that the man plundered public funds in the Philippines.

A federal judge said Monday it could be months before he decides whether Charlie "Atong" Ang, 44, should be extradited to Manila on charges of plunder—charges which can carry the death penalty in the Philippines.

US Department of Justice lawyer Jeffrey Cole told US District Judge Lawrence R. Leavitt that the Philippine government promised to waive the death penalty if Ang is extradited to face trial.

Since Ang's arrest in November 2001, Leavitt said he would not send Ang to the Philippines to face a capital charge.

Estrada, who was ousted in January 2001, is standing trial on political corruption charges in Manila, and could face the death penalty.

Ang is accused of funneling tobacco tax kickbacks and illegal gambling payoffs to Estrada. Ang spent a year in US custody in a North Las Vegas jail before he was freed late last year on $300,000 bail.

Ang's defense lawyer, William Genego, said Monday that government lawyers could not prove Ang had any connection with three people whom Cole alleged laundered P130 million in kickbacks from former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Cole did not present evidence Monday about allegations that Ang served as a go-between for illegal gambling payoff to Estrada.

Genego said he intended to challenge the gambling charge, and argued that a wiretap used to collect evidence in Philippines was illegal.

Genego said the case should be thrown out because there was no "substantially analogous" US charge to plunder.

Cole said different charges in different countries do not have to correspond precisely.

Leavitt instructed lawyers to submit briefs before Aug. 25.

Ang, who declined comment leaving the courthouse with his wife, Nerissa, has applied for political asylum in the United States. *AP*

DISPERSAL IN ILOILO

3 hurt in anti-GMA protest

ILOILO CITY—Three protesters were injured yesterday when riot policemen and civilian volunteers dispersed a protest rally led by the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, about 100 meters away from the hotel where President Macapagal-Arroyo was staying overnight here.

It was the most violent rally dispersal in Iloilo City in recent years.

The police arrested Rosel Diasnes and Wenefredo Dublezo of the Kilusang Mayo Uno; .and Kim Garachico, an Anakbayan member. Three more unidentified ralliers have been detained.

The three injured protesters were identified as Relan Vergara, 23; Fergerie Panila, 22; and Corazon Co, 52.

Vergara, who was hit in the head by a truncheon, was taken to the Iloilo Doctors Hospital. Panila and Co suffered bruises in various parts of their bodies.

The ralliers were protesting against tuition hikes and agitating for higher wages and the ouster of Ms Macapagal.

About 100 Bayan members, carrying placards and torches, marched on MH del Pilar St. on Molo district to General Luna St., about a block away, in front of the University of the Philippines-Visayas Iloilo campus.

They were met by about 200 riot policemen and members of the Civilian Volunteers Organization and Bantay Bayan Foundation.

At first, the protesters agreed to retreat about 50 meters. But the police decided to disperse them after 15 minutes, saying the rally had no permit and was obstructing traffic flow.

The protesters refused to budge and started shoving back at the policemen. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ports chief faces graft raps over cargo-handling contract

By Armand N. Nocum

PHILIPPINE Ports Authority General Manager Alfonso Cusi was charged with graft before the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) on Monday for allegedly failing to divest shares in a firm that was doing business with the PPA.

A private complainant, Virgilio Casison of Caloocan City, said Cusi's continued hold on the firm constituted "conflict of interest (that has caused) damage and injuries to the government."

Interviewed by phone yesterday, Cusi told the INQUIRER that he divested his shares in the Starlite Marine and Industrial Services Corp., a cargo-handling service company, "two years ago."

Starlite has a 15-year contract to lease a 1,003-sq. m. PPA property in Tagbilaran.

Casison, who filed the case "as a taxpayer," said he had "no knowledge or information" that Cusi actually divested rights or interests in the company, as the law required.

The complainant asked the PAGC to "conduct a fact-finding investigation of all contracts/ transactions" between the PPA and Starlite "executed before and after Mr. Cusi's assumption of office."

Casison pointed out that the contract was signed on Feb. 25, 1998, and Cusi became PPA general manager in February 2001.

The contract was to operate and maintain the passenger terminal building in Tagbilaran and run the port's cargo handling services.

Starlite, whose officials includes Cusi's wife Ma. Angeles, pays the government about P30,000 a month.

Cusi is also facing plunder charges before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly constructing a defective P230 million port in Culasi, Roxas City.

The port is reportedly sinking.

In an earlier interview, Cusi explained that according to the port's design, "some settlement" was expected in the first two years, and that P3.5 million had been set aside to correct the ground movement over the next five years.

Solon seeks freeze of Danding funds in San Miguel, UCPB

BAYAN Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday called on the government to prevent businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. from continuing to use the funds of the United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corp. in the face of the Sandiganbayan ruling last week divesting him of the UCPB shares.

Beltran said this was necessary to prevent the firms' resources from being dissipated or "laundered and funneled into other businesses using dummy corporations."

"(Cojuangco's) business assets and shares in the UCPB and SMC should be immediately frozen to ensure that Cojuangco and his associates will not be able to manipulate the funds further," Beltran said in a statement.

In a landmark decision on Friday, the Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco and his associates had illegally acquired the UCPB with the use of the coconut levy funds which the anti-graft court declared were public funds.

The ruling on the UCPB case was a major victory for the government in its efforts to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his associates as the bank also controls the coconut levy assets that Cojuangco has been using to maintain control of the food and beverage giant as well as other coconut-related businesses.

Cojuangco was allegedly used by Marcos as a dummy to gain control of the assets of the coconut industry in the 1970s and 1980s.

Beltran said Cojuangco should be slapped with criminal charges "because of his gross malversation of the coconut levy funds and continued illegal use of them to increase his ill-gotten wealth."

The Sandiganbayan ruling would be "rendered half-baked and inutile if no criminal charges against Cojuangco follow," he said.

Beltran said that Cojuangco would have to prove in court that he did not use coconut levy funds to buy SMC.

"The burden of proof lies with Cojuangco. He can give his explanations in court," he said.

Beltran also said he was opposed to the reported plans to privatize the UCPB shares that the court had forfeited in favor of the government.

He said the assets should be used for the "direct rehabilitation of the coconut industry."

"The levy was originally intended to be a security blanket for small coconut farmers and coconut-related industries in the countryside. The interest of the farmers and farm workers in coconut plantations should come first," he said.

Militant farmers, meanwhile, has asked the Supreme Court to define the term "public funds" in the case of the Sandiganbayan decision declaring the estimated P130 billion coco levy funds as public money.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) made the statement following Cojuangco's declaration that the Sandiganbayan ruling had further distanced coconut farmers from the benefits of the coco levy fund.

"The courts should clarify the meaning of the term 'public funds' because without such clarification the funds would only transfer from one landlord-comprador to another bureaucrat like President Macapagal-Arroyo," said Danilo Ramos, the KMP secretary general.

The KMP maintains the coco levy funds were public monies as they had been squeezed from small coconut farmers through a forced tax.

"The coco levy fund comes from the labor of small coconut farmers. It (coco levy funds) belongs and must be returned to them," he said.

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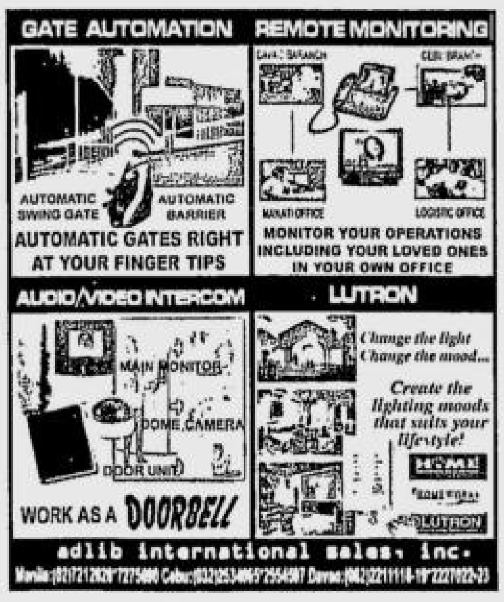
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Aussie PM opens new embassy

HOWARD

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister John Howard opened a new, more secure embassy yesterday while warning his diplomatic staff that they remain potential targets of terrorism.

The opening ceremony helped mend a diplomatic spat that erupted in November when Australia, Canada and the European Union closed their embassies in Manila, citing "specific and credible" terrorist threats, which they refused to divulge to Philippine officials.

Government officials insisted there were no threats and called the closures an overreaction that harmed the country's image.

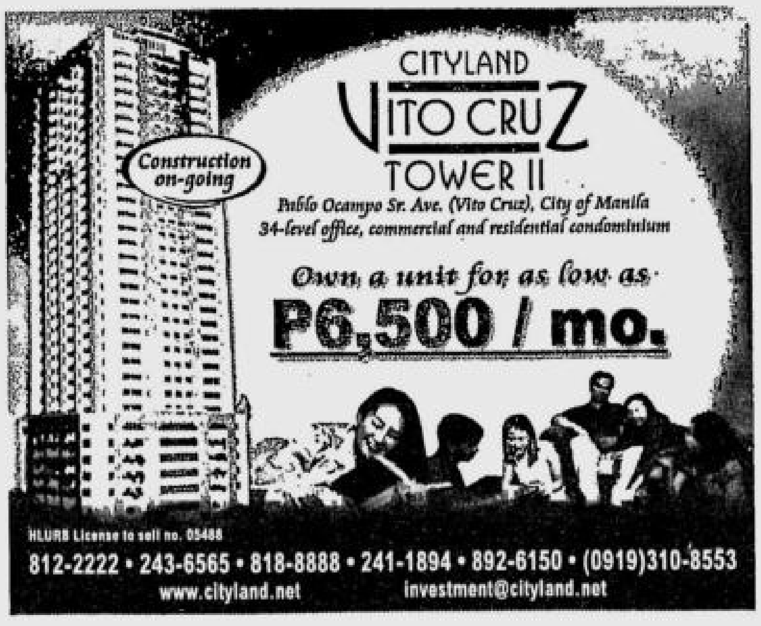
"The government will continue to do all it can to ensure your job is made, not only very rewarding and very productive, but also is conducted in the most secure circumstances that it can be," Howard told embassy staff.

"The diplomatic missions are inevitably in this age of terrorism a particular target. That fact has to be bluntly faced and bluntly stated."

Howard said his state visit to the Philippines has been "excellent" and "productive" despite learning of the escape of three terrorists from police custody on Monday.

He and his wife departed later yesterday for Japan and South Korea.

The embassy has vacated its old location on Paseo de Roxas in Makati to the new site, the RCBC Plaza on Ayala Avenue.



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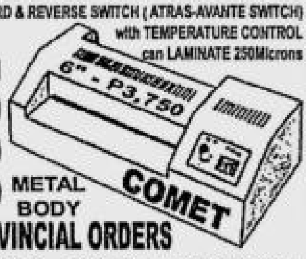

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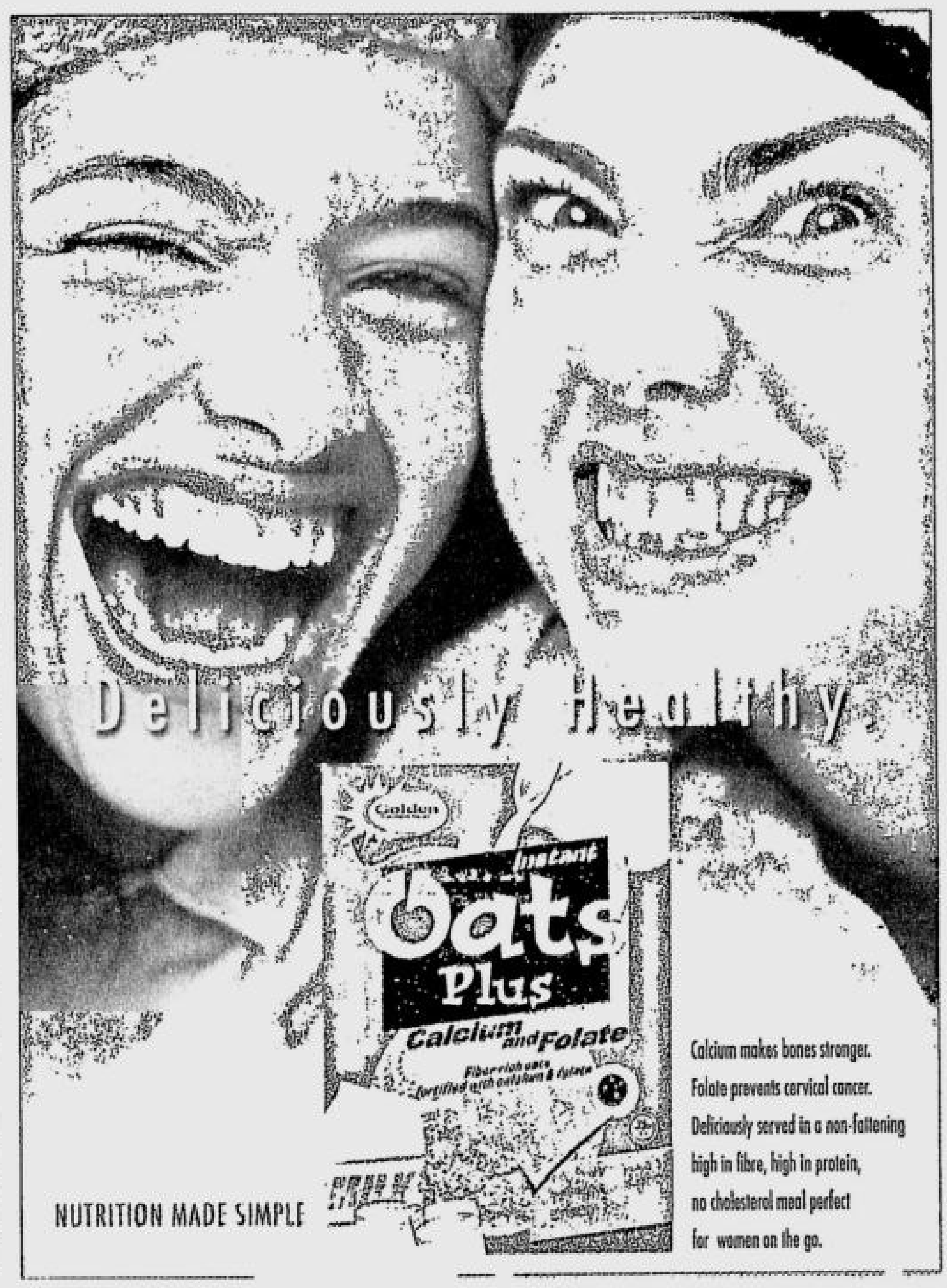

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'Powerless' Subic hotel cries SBMA harassment

ONE of the original investors of the Subic Freeport has accused the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) of bludgeoning and destroying his business when armed policemen swooped down on his hotel in a "Gestapo-like" raid and cut off its power supply in spite of the fact that it was current in its bills.

TRILLO

Anthony Trillo, owner of the Crown Peak Hotels, said the power cutoff drove 350 long-staying tenants, many of them foreigners, and their families out of the hotel on Thursday.

He said the action was unjustified and was the latest act of the "systematic harassment" by SBMA chair Felicito Payumo against his businesses owing to his friendship with Payumo's arch-rival, former SBMA chair and now Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

"This is an act of harassment designed to put me out of business," Trillo said. "It is all so difficult to understand why SBMA is doing its utmost to injure and destroy a pioneer investor's business which has been around since the establishment of the Subic Freeport in 1993."

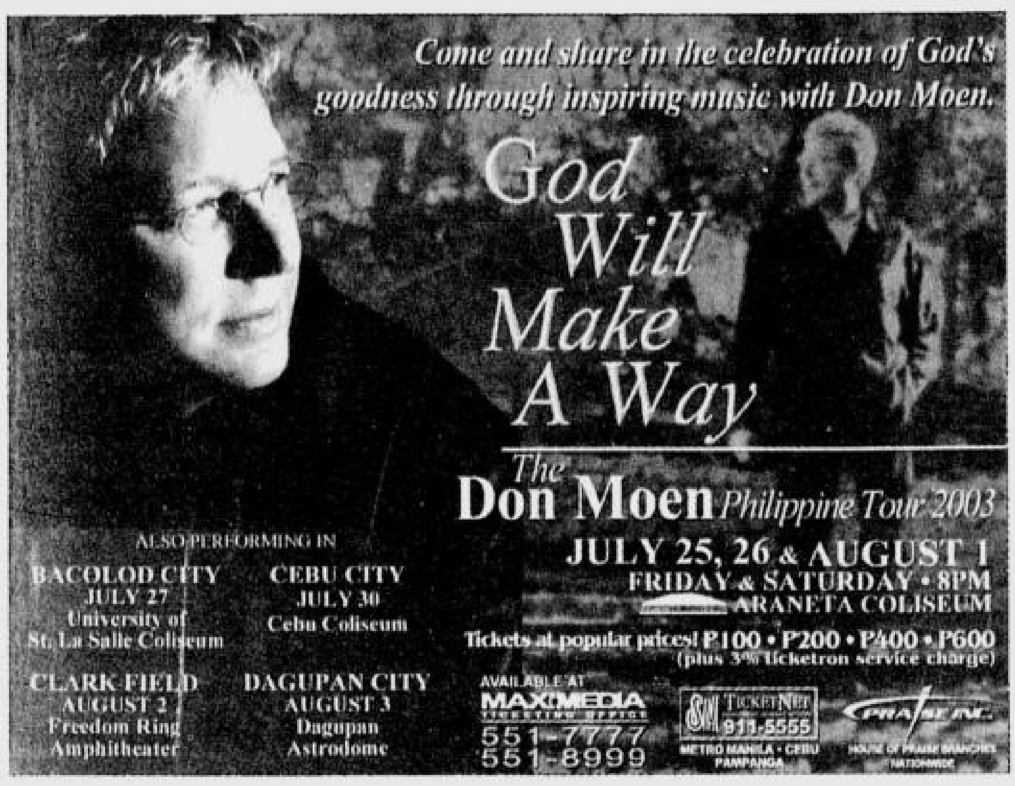
The case arose from a civil case between Crown Peaks Hotels and SBMA over the hotel's arrears in power bills. The hotel went to court in March 2001 seeking the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction against an impending SBMA move to shut down power from Crown Peak.

The regional trial court of Olongapo City granted the injunction on the condition that Crown Peak filed a cash bond of P12.8 million covering the contested power arrears and that it deposit post-dated checks for future power and rental bills.

Trillo said Crown Peak complied with the conditions. But on Wednesday, the court dismissed Crown Peak's case on a technicality after it failed to submit a pre-trial motion on time and, in effect, lifted the injunction.

The next day, Trillo said, a police force from the SBMA swooped down on all Crown Peak hotels and shut down the power supply despite the fact that by that time, Crown Peak was up to date with its power bills, including its arrears during the Gordon administration.

In fact, he said, the SBMA had cashed all its post-dated checks, including the 60th and last payment last month.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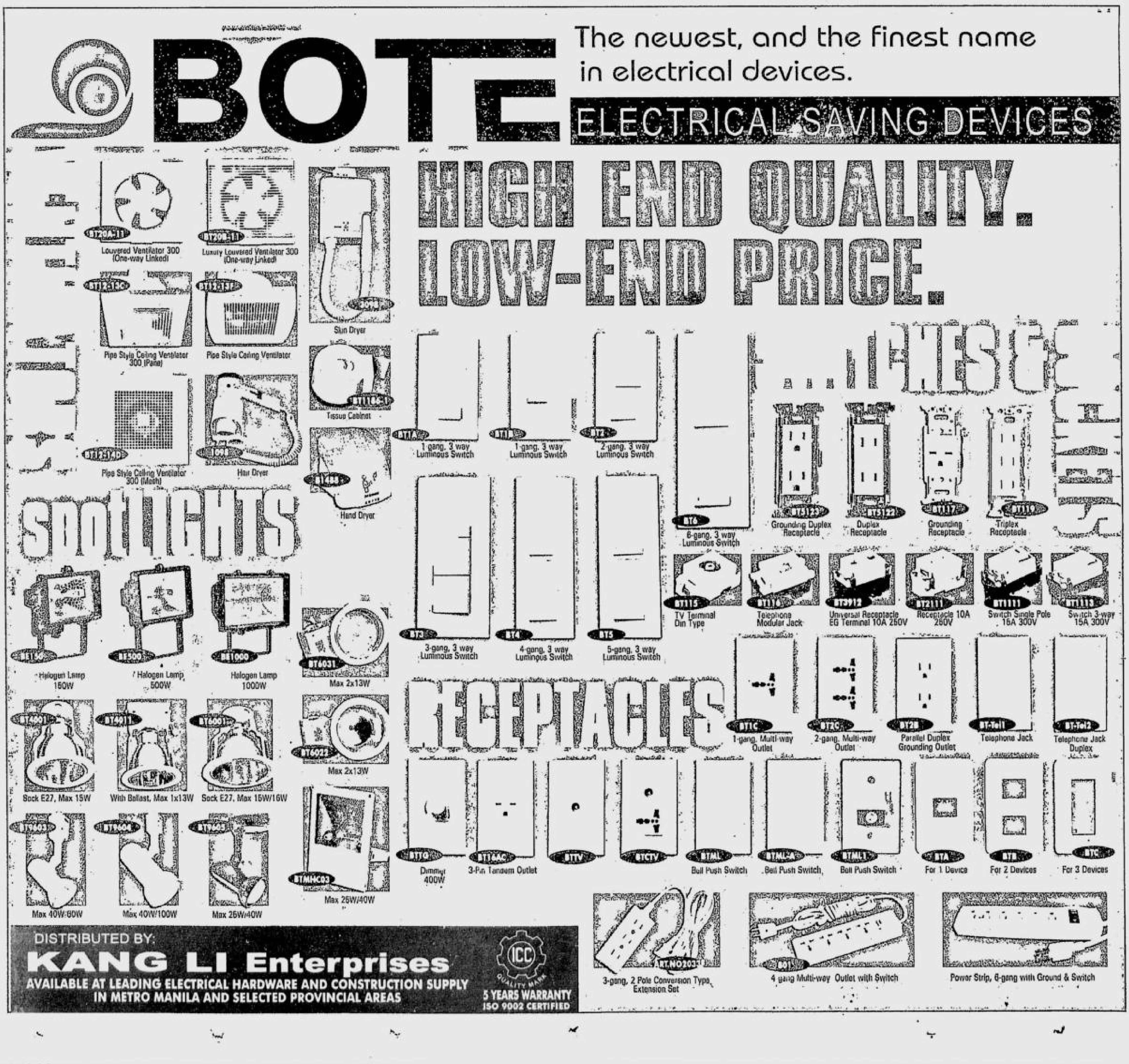
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Auction for Napocor transmission assets a failure

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday that the auction for $2 billion worth of transmission assets of the state-owned National Power Corp. had failed as only one bidder had shown interest by the July 11 deadline.

A new auction has been set for October and interested parties have until Sept. 15 to submit requirements to a prequalification process, Perez said.

The government wanted to raise $2 billion from the sale of the transmission assets to pay off some of the Napocor's huge debts.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) which privatized the power sector and which Congress passed in 2001, the government must spin off and sell the transmission assets by mid-year.

Perez said the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm), the agency assigned to dispose of Napocor's assets, would soon be publishing invitations for potential bidders to issue expressions of interest by Aug. 22.

Qualification proposals are due on Oct. 10 while submission for technical proposals and financial bids has been set for Oct. 24.

Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said a second bidding attempt should give other interested parties the time to study the key aspects of the proposed privatization.

Meralco to get ₱8-B refund from Napocor

WHILE IT had just started refunding a fraction of the P28 billion it had illegally charged consumers, the Manila Electric Co. will be collecting an P8 billion refund from the National Power Corp., Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday.

The P8 billion refund is part of a compromise agreement between Meralco and the government after Meralco reneged on a supply agreement with the Napocor. Instead of being punished for reneging on the contract, Meralco is now being rewarded, Enrile said.

The agreement, Enrile said, was forged by Malacañang with Meralco without the knowledge of Napocor. It calls for Meralco to pay Napocor P20 billion for unilaterally abrogating a 10-year supply contract and for Napocor to pay Meralco P8 billion for the state power firm's alleged failure to provide transmission facilities alleged under the transitory provisions of the Energy and Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Enrile said the deal allows Meralco to pass on to the consumers its P20-billion liabilities to the Napocor.

He said the questionable and anomalous compromise agreement will punish consumers and taxpayers with what he called a "quintuple whammy."

The compromise agreement was brokered in Malacañang without the participation of Napocor officials, Enrile said.

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2003 GLX M/T	715,000	86,000	20,695	20,527	14,605

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Townhouse yields 'shabu' chemicals

From page A1

It is located across from a townhouse unit reportedly rented by actor Richard Gomez, endorser of the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga campaign a few years ago, according to tenants.

At the Port of Manila, customs agents yesterday seized P10 million worth of chemicals used as raw materials for the manufacture of illegal drugs. The shipment, which came from Taiwan, was intended for Jayzarm Enterprises but was confiscated.

Authorities said that shipment had no prior import authority from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in violation of the Dangerous Drug Act and tariff laws.

Among those seized were 10 drums of D91-N Butyly Ether, sixdrums of Dichlorothene, 10 drums of acetone, two drums of sodium acetate, seven drums of sodium hydroxide, four sacks of activated charcoal and four manual oil pumps. In a statement, authorities said the chemicals could be used for the manufacture of shabu.

Police and members of the PDEA raided the house at around 12:30 p.m. on the strength of the search warrant issued by Judge Natividad Dizon.

Authorities had been watching the place since 8 p.m. the previous night.

When they finally got access to the compound, police found around half a ton of ephedrine contained in 19 boxes and a pail.

Ephedrine is a key ingredient for manufacturing shabu, said Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. who was present during the raid.

The volume seized in the townhouse unit could produce around 500 kilos of high-grade shabu with a street value of at least P1 billion, he told reporters.

Lina said the chemicals were intended to be mixed with the liquid seized Sunday night from an apartment in Las Piñas allegedly rented by suspected drug ring leader Benito Sy.

The Las Piñas raid came after police accidentally discovered the drug laboratory in Silang and later around 300 grams of shabu in a safe house in Las Piñas.

Last Monday, police raided another shabu-laboratory in Merville, Parañaque, the fourth successful anti-drug operation in two days.

Foreign drug rings

All the raids, from Silang to Quezon City, led Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay, police anti-drug chief, to announce yesterday that police had already neutralized at least four of the 13 foreign drug rings on the PDEA list.

As of press time, police were still conducting an anti-drug operation in Ilocos Norte.

"The group said that what we got here is a big fish," Aglipay told the INQUIRER during the raid. "We're still trying to totally dismantle the tentacles of the group. We're very sure, at this point, that the group has a very big network."

The syndicate is said to be headed by Sy but Aglipay said the man could be using a false name.

Aside from Aglipay and Lina, PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane was on hand to witness yesterday's raid.

Deputy Diretor Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, Metro Manila police chief, came late.

Conspicuously absent in the operation was President Macapagal-Arroyo who had attended the four previous raids.

Like in the Parañaque raid, police found no one in the townhouse unit. What was left was a black Honda Civic sedan (WDX-790), which was said to be owned by Leandro Go.

It was not clear if Go was also the Jason Go who, along with Jackson Dy, was the subject of the search warrant.

A next-door neighbor said she knew Leandro was the unit's lessee.

"I only saw him in the evening," she told the INQUIRER. "Sometimes, she's accompanied by two men who looked Chinese."

Other neighbors said they did not notice anything peculiar about the house or its occupant—a Chinese who they described as a "simple man" who goes along well with others in the neighborhood.

"He looks nice. He mingles with us but we know only a little about him. We know he is from China," an elderly woman who lives across from Go's house said.

Go has been occupying the house for two months but has a one-year contract with the townhouse owner, according to Barangay Horseshoe chair Josie Ang. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

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Senate body prefers ...

From page A1

the Senate committee vote—where eight of the 14 members opted for a constitutional convention, two voted for a constituent assembly, and three others favored the holding of a referendum, which would let the people choose between a constituent assembly and a constitutional convention. One member was abroad.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is pushing for amendments to the Constitution through a constituent assembly, remained optimistic that his proposal would still get a majority vote once it reached the Senate plenary. He hailed the Senate committee vote as a "major victory."

But for Senate President Franklin Drilon, the committee vote meant that that the constituent assembly mode was "dead." Unless the House gives in and goes for the constitutional convention mode, the Charter change issue will not move forward, he said.

"As far as I am concerned the Con-ass is dead," said Drilon.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws, said yesterday that only he and Sen. Robert Barbers voted for the constituent assembly mode.

Sen. Joker Arroyo is abroad and has not yet submitted his vote. Angara said Arroyo was likely to vote for a constitutional convention wherein delegates would be elected by the people to rewrite parts of the Constitution.

The constituent assembly is made up of members of the Senate and House sitting in joint session.

"The constitutional convention mode received majority preference in the committee," Angara said in a telephone interview yesterday. He described the outcome of the voting as a "democratic choice."

Under a committee resolution that Angara is set to submit, delegates to the constitutional convention will be elected simultaneously with the May 2004 elections. The Con-con will convene not later than 30 days from the inauguration of the new President elected in May 2004.

The Con-con will be composed of one delegate each from the present congressional districts.

De Venecia said that while the Senate committee did not uphold the House's proposed resolution calling for a constituent assembly, the vote meant that constitutional change will now be brought before the Senate plenary. And once on the Senate floor, the mode could still change from constitutional convention to constituent assembly.

He said the proposal for a constituent assembly has the support of nine senators and that only three votes are needed for its approval.

De Venecia would not say who the nine senators were but most of them, he said, were not members of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments.

When asked whether there was still a chance for the constituent assembly mode to be approved at the Senate floor, Angara said that while "theoretically" this could happen, it was doubtful whether the Senate would go for such mode given the results of Monday's voting.

Angara said that although he personally preferred the constituent assembly mode because it was more expedient and economical, he has to "bow to the majority decision."

Angara refused to disclose how members of the committee but during an interview with dzRH, he had said that the eight who voted for the constitutional convention mode were Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, Majority Leader Loren Legarda, Senators Francis Pangilinan, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Ramon Revilla, John Osmeña and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Favoring the referendum option, he said, were Senators Manuel Villar Jr., Rodolfo Biazon and Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

Drilon, who had endorsed a separate resolution in the Senate calling for a Con-con to amend the Charter, said his resolution has the support of 14 senators.

"The committee has spoken. We expect the committee report calling for a Con-con," said Drilon in a telephone interview.

KISS YOUR SWIMSUIT GOODBYE.

LADIES RAIN WEAR 2003
THE LANDMARK

Neri hit for baring RP stand in air talks

EX-SENATOR Wigberto E. Tañada yesterday chided Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri for making public the government's negotiating position in the air services talks with United States even before the two sides sit down to talk today.

Neri has said that the government would propose adopting an "open-skies policy" for cargo service providers in the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Tañada, who is the lead convenor of the protectionist Free Trade Alliance, said Neri's statements on his proposal for the Clark airport were "inappropriate and ill-timed."

"Neri has every right to express his pro-liberalization views, to propose open skies even for cargo at a time when the Philippines is about to negotiate its air services agreement with the United States is tantamount to giving away our country's bargaining position," Tañada said in a statement.

The FTA, which is opposing an open skies regime with the US starting next October, is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to include private sector representatives in the air rights negotiations with the US.

Specifically, it is asking the President to amend Executive Order No. 32 issued in August 2001 to restore the membership of domestic air carriers in the Philippine negotiating panel.

The four domestic air carriers—PAL, Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines and Asian Spirit—and airline unions should at least have one representative on the panel, according to Tañada. *Gil Cabacungan*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 16, 2003
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12
Gospel: Mt 11:25-27

On one occasion Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you.

"Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Commentary

Is learning opposed to faith? The heavenly Father delighted in creating humans in his likeness, setting them over all creation, with their gifts of reason and freewill. Part of those gifts is to understand the nature of the universe and the laws that govern the relationship of its myriad components. The discovery of the laws of nature reveals order in the visible world that not only accounts for its beauty but also calls for an "orderer," a Creator. Sometimes the human mind refuses to open itself to that truth. It refuses to make the reasonable act of faith in the Creator. Then it fails to recognize his loving plan. And so we all become accidents, instead of beings made out of love, sons and daughters of a loving Father.

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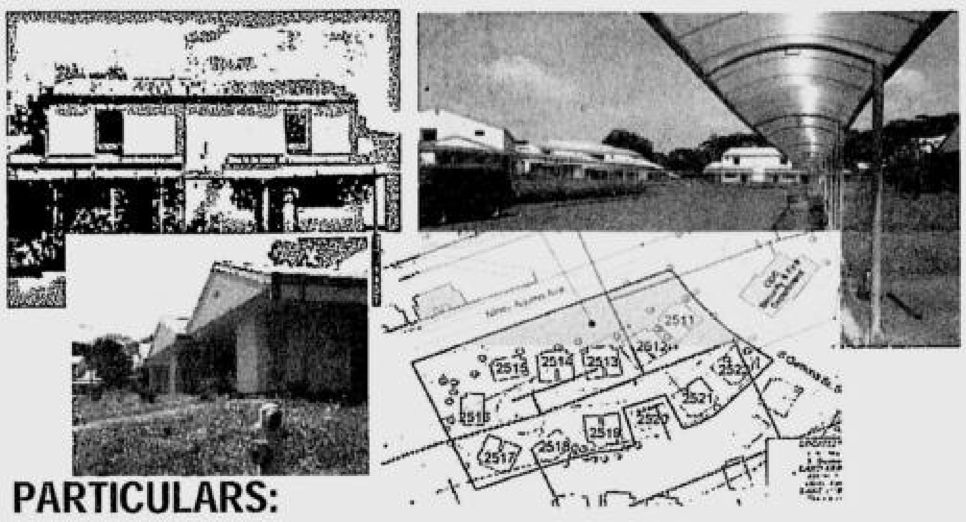

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A TIME TO REFLECT

The premature focus on the 2004 presidential elections has clouded and even influenced perceptions that tend to promote divisiveness in our already troubled country.

This recent disturbing development is not what we need right now. **Today, what is urgent is the need to be one and pull together.** The possibility of stunting the modest gains we have in moral and economic improvements should be a concern for all of us.

Today is a good time once again to reflect on what is truly essential for our country and our people.

Rightly or wrongly, the Sandiganbayan decision on the coco levy will have far reaching effects on business. The ruling, could impact not only the United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corporation, but, also, other companies whose ownership has been questioned in the past.

At the same time, the premature focus on the May 2004 elections has tended to distract the opening of Congress where we expect the President to deliver her SONA focusing on urgent national problems like peace and order, graft and corruption, drugs, smuggling, unemployment, budget deficit, rapidly deteriorating quality of education, worsening quality of life, and improving the country's competitiveness to cope with globalization.

On the government's pronouncement that it will look into the loan portfolio dating back to 1986 of the state-controlled United Coconut Planters Bank, we suggest that because of its sensitivity, those auditing the books of UCPB should do their work diligently before making public disclosures on the bank's finances so that the reputation of reputable borrowers may not be unduly and unfairly tarnished.

This is important as it **could send the wrong signals to local and foreign investors, forcing them to hold investments until after the May 2004 elections. The chilling effect cannot be ignored.**

In sum, the situation calls for everyone to exercise the highest degree of statesmanship.

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Long overdue

EDITORIAL

"WHY now?" Eduardo M. Cojuangco and his allies are demanding to know after the Sandiganbayan ruled that the billionaire businessman had acquired illegally the shares credited to him in United Coconut Planters Bank. But the more appropriate question should be: "Why not now? And why has it taken all of 17 years to give justice to coconut farmers and the Filipino people?"

All those years, the Presidential Commission on Good Government has contended that Cojuangco's 72-percent share in UCPB was bought with money taken from the farmers through the coconut levy. Like all the other cases seeking the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, this one languished in judicial limbo until 2001 when the Supreme Court ruled that government-sequestered shares were "indisputably acquired with coconut levy funds which are public in character." In that landmark case, the Supreme Court also ordered the Sandiganbayan to decide once and for all whether Cojuangco and his associates had a legitimate claim to those shares. Even so, it still took 19 months for the Sandiganbayan to finally decide that Cojuangco et al. had no legitimate right to those shares.

Cojuangco, however, does not see the Sandiganbayan decision as the end of a lengthy legal process. He chooses to look at it as the beginning of a campaign to torpedo his presidential ambition. Or so he is telling the public.

"It is surprising that the decision came out after (the) plans that I will be running for the presidency floated," Cojuangco told reporters Monday. Two days earlier former Senate President Ernesto Maceda, chair emeritus of Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, said the timing of the decision was "very suspicious" since it came when Cojuangco was testing the waters for another bid at the highest office. Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was among the first opposition leaders to push for Cojuangco's candidacy, also asked why the decision came "suddenly out of the blue" and accused the administration of being "vindictive."

Curiously, none of Cojuangco's allies seem to remember that the NPC is part of the ruling coalition. Neither have they bothered to point out that several administration officials, including Speaker Jose de Venecia, have talked publicly about the possibility of fielding Cojuangco as the administration's standard bearer in 2004. And what is so "sudden" about a decision that took 17 years to make?

Cojuangco's relations with President Macapagal-Arroyo has been so cozy that the administration has given him free rein to run San Miguel Corp. as he sees fit. Then recently, Ms Macapagal even offered Maceda a directorship in SMC, a plan that was only scuttled when PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac angrily objected to it.

Talking of timing, isn't it equally possible that Cojuangco timed his political moves, including those Ginebra ads and his sorties to the provinces to feel the public pulse about his entry into the presidential derby, precisely in anticipation of the court decision? If Cojuangco and his supporters say politics was behind the court's decision, why shouldn't others suspect that he tried to use politics to turn the decision in his favor?

In this country, politics and political office have increasingly become the refuge of Marcos relatives, cronies and scoundrels. Thus, all that hoopla about Cojuangco's political plans could have been planned to condition the public against accepting an adverse ruling on the UCPB case.

Such an unfavorable outcome could not have come as a surprise to Cojuangco. On Wednesday last week, he was already trying to cushion its impact. "It's simple," he said. "The money is not mine. It belongs to the coconut farmers."

That is exactly what the Sandiganbayan said. So what is he complaining about?

What next?

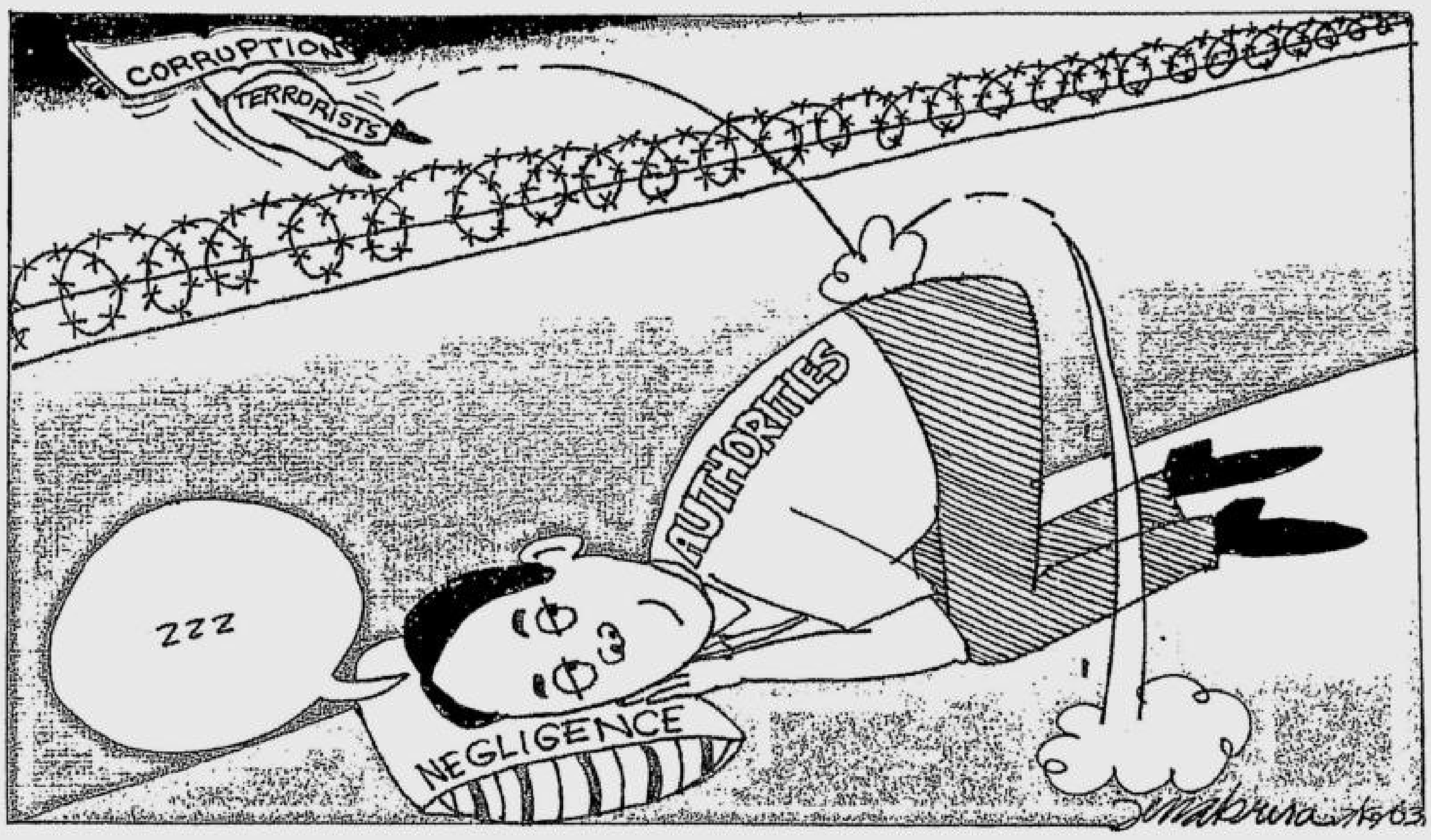
FOREIGN COMMENT

CHARLES Taylor is one of Africa's greatest war criminals. He already had thousands of people on his conscience when he came to power in Liberia in 1997—not to mention the men and women his killers murdered in neighboring Sierra Leone.

And now he probably will just slip away, into exile in Nigeria, leaving behind him a completely ruined state.

What will become of Liberia? Can the state be saved? Who will rebuild and govern it?

The war criminals from the rebel groups, maybe? A badly equipped and badly trained West African intervention force? A thousand US troops who will intervene for a few weeks? *Sueddeutsche Zeitung (Munich, Germany)*



Air talks: Why is the US treating us like this?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE SECOND round of the RP-US aviation talks will start today at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Manila. This is a crucial "make or break" stage. If no agreement is reached, a so-called "open skies" regime—with all the attendant iniquities between two grossly unequal nations—will go into effect on Oct. 1, 2003.

At present, the talks are deadlocked over a number of issues, chief of which is the US demand for a so-called "third-country-carrier code sharing" rights. The Philippines has steadfastly refused. Granting such rights will irreparably damage the local aviation industry.

What is this issue all about? Under the scheme, US carriers can forge code-share deals with airlines from other countries authorizing their allies to fly the lucrative routes between the United States and the Philippines on their behalf—in effect, to proxy for them.

Code-sharing is a common practice among airlines. It simply means that two carriers agree to offer a joint product on a certain route, with one airline flying and the other merely buying seats on such flights for resale under its own airline code, thus the name.

In international aviation, the code-share partners are usually flag carriers of the countries covered by the route. For example, United Airlines and Lufthansa code-share on the Chicago-Frankfurt route. Also, there is Vietnam Airlines code-sharing with Cathay Pacific Airways between Hanoi and Hong Kong.

However, the US demand for "proxy carrier" code-sharing rights is curious. Washington proposes to share the air rights of its carriers not with their Philippine counterparts, as is the accepted practice, but with airlines from other countries. Thus, Northwest Airlines is pushing for KLM, its global alliance partner, to operate RP-US flights on its behalf.

Other US airlines are also set to appoint surrogate carriers to carry RP-US traffic for them. American Airlines will code-share with Cathay Pacific or Qantas, its allies in the Oneworld bloc. Delta Airlines will team up with Korean Air or Air France, its partners in Sky Team. Even bankrupt United Airlines will rely on any of its cohorts in the Star alliance—Thai Airways, Singapore Airlines, All Nippon Airways, or Asiana Airlines.

Where does this leave Philippine carriers? Out in the cold. The ironic thing here is that this is the RP-US route we are talking about. This is supposed to be a market for the two sides to jointly exploit and develop. Yet, only one side is benefiting. Worse, the United States is even lobbying for other countries' airlines to come share the spoils—at the expense of Filipino air carriers.

Is this any way to treat a longtime ally? Is this our reward for being a blindly loyal supporter of US policies like the war on terrorism and the invasion of Iraq? We thought the Philippines is now a major non-Nato US ally. The way the Americans are bullying us in the aviation talks, It seems we are the enemy, not an ally.

It is not as if US airlines will be shortchanged if they share their air rights with Philippine carriers. Certainly, we have as much stake as they—if not more—in developing the RP-US air market. Trans-Pacific traffic is the bread-and-butter business of our sole flag carrier and, down the line, the many local enterprises dependent on it, like travel agents, cargo shippers, ground handlers, food suppliers for airline catering, and many more. These small firms employ thousands of workers and support countless families. In short, a huge chunk of the local airline industry is directly dependent on the RP-US air market.

Shouldn't the United States at least give our local airlines first crack at partnering with them in exploiting this all-important market? After all, both nations are in this treaty together and, therefore, they must join hands to make it work. And by the way, the Americans will benefit too: They will get to fill their planes and receive just as much revenue as they would with third-country partners. So why do they have to bring in outsiders into what is clearly and plainly a bilateral relationship? Do they have a problem with Filipino carriers?

This is not fair play. Washington's bully tactics and anti-Filipino bias in the air talks are more than an irritant. They threaten to sour overall relations between the two historic allies. No less than the fate of the Philippine aviation industry is on the line in these talks. Our negotiators must stand firm.

* * *

There are talks in journalistic circles that the notorious American lobby group Agile, will put up a daily broadsheet, using Filipino dummies. It will be called Philippines Today, which will put it in direct conflict with Rep. Teddy Locsin's Today, a small but better than most, daily.

Also, it would violate the Constitution, since it limits ownership of Philippine mass media to Filipino citizens. Of course, Agile may use dummies, so that would violate another law, the Anti-Dummy Law.

And you know what that newspaper will espouse: American interests at the expense of the Filipinos.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: You may have already heard this one, but it is still good. And it is the first joke that will be told in a series. This is the first part:

A priest had retired from his parish because of a sex scandal. Months later, a former parishioner saw him in the convent of another parish church.

The parishioner greeted him:

"Narito na pala kayo Among. Kumusta po kayo?"

"Eto," replied the priest, *"may edad na."* Then he calls out, "Edad *magdala ka nga ng kape dito!"* *(To be continued)*

Vows

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS fascinated by the responses of people to the question of whether Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should—or could—run again. You'll find that in last Sunday's Talk of the Town. The remarks there as good a gauge of Filipino values as they come.

There was no lack of amusing answers. A couple of people said she had every right to change her mind because she is a woman. One was a woman, Vangie Tumanan, a housewife living in Dagupan, and the other was a man, Jose Mercado, quite surprisingly the president of the Merlo Agricultural Corp. of Lipa. I don't know in what vein they said this. Tumanan's answer is fairly straightforward: "It is said that a woman has the right to change her mind. So if she changes her mind and runs for president, she is just being a woman." Mercado's seems a little tongue-in-cheek, "Yes, because she is a woman." Well, you never know. Batangas is well known for its knife, its accent, and its machismo.

I didn't know that we still held on to these notions. I know we continue to call our typhoons by women's names, a practice that comes from thinking they share a common fretfulness, or moodiness, as some prefer to see it. "Fickle as the weather" has always seemed to be interchangeable with "fickle as a woman." The pop songs of the 1950s and 1960s were full of these suggestions, but I thought they had retreated into the backburner of the national mind over the last couple of decades. Now and then of course I still hear people say, *"para kang babae,"* when someone can't make up his mind, or changes it abruptly or often, but I've always thought that was said in jest. Well, I guess the women's groups aren't laughing. I leave it to them to deconstruct this.

The other amusing answer was that GMA had every right to change her mind because she is a politician. Again, I don't know that the women's groups will like the idea of women being put on par with politicians, both to suggest an inability to keep one's word. I know there's a universal distrust of politicians as the "most promising" category of individuals, but I did not know there was this degree of acceptance of it. Politicians being someone whom you expect to not keep his—or her—word, and GMA being politician, she might as well run. The tone I caught in some of the remarks pertaining to this varied from world weariness to welcome. This is a country that seems to have developed a variation to the saying, "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em." It is: "If you can't lick it, like it."

In the main, however, there is the more expected reaction, one that represents a core Filipino value. That is keeping true to one's word. I said before that was the one thing GMA's scriptwriters would have to reckon with more than anything else. Today's generation in particular may not have heard of *palabra de honor*—the Spanish brings with it an entire culture, an entire edifice of obligation—but it does continue to value a certain degree of troth. Or since troth itself carries ironclad medieval demands to keep true to one's word, a certain degree of honesty. Most Filipinos do not expect ordinary mortals in ordinary circumstances to always keep their word, but most Filipinos expect their leaders to do so over a matter of some importance. GMA is not someone you drink with in the beerhouse and her promise is not of the order of quitting smoking.

The comments in Talk of the Town affirm it. The idea that George W. Bush and sundry world leaders want GMA to run, even if true—and we have that only on the word of GMA's officials, and word precisely is not what they are known for—won't make much difference. Neither will Jaime Cardinal Sin's apparent insistence that GMA run. The latter will probably only provoke Filipinos to say with equal world weariness or cynicism that Sin may be expected to say that, he is, after all, also a politician.

The problem is simple. If GMA runs, what can she promise the electorate that the electorate can possibly believe? Of course all politicians make promises which they do not do anyway, and which Filipinos do not expect them to do, as shown by some of the responses to Talk of the Town. But it is a game we play with definite rules. We suspend disbelief hoping a miracle will happen, that one politician out of so many will prove the exception to the rule and do what she said she would do. You cannot suspend that disbelief with someone who has already gone back on her word. And over something so vital. If GMA runs—and there seems little reason to suppose she won't—she won't be bucking the Social Weather Stations or Pulse Asia, she will be bucking Filipino culture.

Whether she wins or not, its effect on Filipino culture won't be slight. As it is, this country is already being pummeled with ideas about the perfect legitimacy of saying one thing and doing another. Franklin Drilon has added to that cheapening of values by his ardent campaign for dual citizenship. I'm glad Isagani Cruz and Raul Palabrica spoke out as well against it. I wrote about it last year inveighing against it as suggesting precisely that one's oath, or troth, or word had no meaning. That when one pledges loyalty to a flag, one can always say "Joke *lang*." And forthwith pledge loyalty to another flag. Things like swearing to be true to one's nation, like swearing to be true to one's beloved, are not of the order of swearing one will no longer wear plaid coats.

Otherwise, one can always say, "It's all right to promise to end poverty, I don't mean it anyway." "It's all right to promise to end crime and corruption, I don't mean it anyway." "It's all right to promise to keep the country free and sovereign, I mean to lick America's boots anyway."

One can always say, "It's all right to promise not to run, I'll do it anyway."

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Are national priorities not awry?

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot
Institute on Church and Social Issues

DO you want a taste of Japan? Take the new Japan-funded LRT-Line 2 (the Megatren) that now runs from Santolan station in Pasig to Cubao. When completed, it will run to Recto Avenue. The signage, the cleanliness and the color of the walls and tiled floors reminded me of Japan, Tokyo in particular. The escalators work, the tickets are machine-dispensed, the signs are very clear. It also has special facilities for handicapped people, such as Braille engravings on the elevators and on the steel handle bars of the stairs, and the yellow path-finding tiles around the stations.

Add billboard signs in funny English, stern-looking Japanese salarymen in dark business suits, young people with dyed hair and signs that warn against *chikan* (gropers in jam-packed trains) and you would think you were in Shinjuku in Tokyo.

The Megatren is very Japanese indeed. And very First World. It's a perfect symbol of our country's aspirations to join the ranks of "developed" countries by unquestioningly following a growth and development path that they make "developing" countries such as ours believe is the only viable one.

When I first took the Megatren back in April there were only seven of us in the train even though the rides were free for several days—the President's "birthday gift" to the people. Below us were people looking up, amazed at the massive machine rumbling above them.

From atop the elevated tracks, I saw the spaceship-like dome of the Araneta Coliseum. On the other side was the Disney-like main church of the Iglesia ni Cristo. Between them were colonies of slumdwellers living precariously on the banks of the *esteros* that I didn't know existed until I saw them from the elevated Megatren. They seemed misplaced. Or maybe the First-World train carrying me was.

Other than the train's being very Japanese and First World, I was also thinking about other things. How much was the loan borrowed for this? How long are we going to pay for it? Is it really going to benefit many people? Why were there only a few passengers? Wouldn't it have been better if the loan was spent on projects that directly combat poverty?

Such infrastructure projects, aside from being used as public relations tools by government officials, are meant to contribute to a "better economy" by making it faster for people to reach workplaces and transact business. It is supposed to save time and money and maximize gains, which are then supposed to trickle down to the poorest. Such is the overarching logic and process of our idea of development. The poor get the trickles. The forced removal of the street vendors to make way for cars adheres to the same logic.

But the last question that I am afraid came rather naturally to me was how much was lost to corruption in this project. How much more was unnecessarily spent for the project and consequently, how much longer would the Filipinos have to pay for the loans?

Sure enough, in the first week of June, Rep. Augusto Baculio raised questions about the unwarranted acceleration of the project which he alleged cost the government an additional P267 million but failed to yield big revenues (PDI, 6/6/03). The project manager denied the allegation. And then just before the month was over, the deputy project manager of the Metro Manila Light Railway Transit Corp. himself, blew the whistle on the supposedly questionable buying of a grinding machine to smoothen the tracks, even though it's not needed because the Megatren rail tracks are very new. The LRTA authorities vowed to file criminal charges against the whistle-blower.

No one knows yet who's telling the truth. But given irregularities in prestige projects in the past, it is not far-off to suspect that maybe government officials decide to undertake such big projects primarily on the basis of how much kickback they will get rather than on any real need for them. Foreign donors of course are known to tolerate it, even connive with project implementers, because they stand to gain from such projects whether they match a recipient country's need or not.

Of course, infrastructure is very important. Even the most obtuse leader knows that. But the alleged irregularities on top of the insufficient volume of passengers and the palpable poverty around, made me ask again the question of whether it might not have been better if the money spent on the LRT 2 was spent on projects that directly help the poor rather than waiting for the trickles to reach them.

Wouldn't it have been better, for instance, to spend the loans on textbooks so that children will not have to share a textbook with eight others? Don't we perhaps need to spend more on the training of our young rather than on trains? The answers are not clear but these questions are legitimate.

Indeed, only time will tell if the Megatren will benefit the people, especially the poor. Or if it will only end up a monumental symbol of the continued deprivation of the poor considering the many books and medicine that could have been bought, houses and hospitals that could have been built from the loans used to build it. Meanwhile the government should go after those involved in the alleged irregularities. But perhaps more importantly, there is a need to consider a more human-centered and quality-of-life criteria of development rather than the rambling and prestige projects-obsessed economic growth and development train we are on now.

A lifetime of memories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MANY readers reacted to the column on "the unspeakable," which to a parent is the death of one's child. Some said it moved them to tears, while others confessed to feeling the same impulse that gripped me when I heard the news about the deaths of the children of two friends: Were my own children safe? Would the same thing happen to me?

One of those friends, Mario Taguiwalo, e-mailed his friends in the pagbabago e-group a copy of his tribute to his son Miguel Antonio, also known as Mike, which he read at the final service last June 6. Mike, 18, had a rare auto-immune disorder that attacked the blood proteins that prevented his blood from clotting. Unknown to him, his parents or his doctors, he'd already suffered two heart attacks before he collapsed in school and had to be rushed to the hospital where doctors determined he needed open-heart surgery.

The surgery was a success, and doctors were confident they had successfully bypassed the damaged parts of Mike's heart. He was also put on blood-thinning medication. "Let us hope nothing happens in the next three months," Mario remembers one of Mike's doctors telling him. Before a month was over, however, Mike suffered his last and fatal heart attack and left his parents, brothers, family, friends and schoolmates bereft of his presence.

As I said in my column, beholding such a loss leaves one, whose business is of words, speechless. But Mario is not considered our pagbabago "guru" for nothing. A man of deep thought and feeling and concise expression, he offered these words of reflection on his son's death, and appreciation for the young man's life that resonate beyond the circle of family and friends that flocked around them. It's for this reason that I've asked Mario's and Beulah's permission to reprint the talk, confident readers will find in it consolation, inspiration and hope. Above all, hope.

(Due to space limitations, I'm using Mario's talk in two parts, since I believe we need to read it in its full and uncut version.)

* * *

ON BEHALF of my dear wife, Beulah; our two substantial sons, Ikoy, known to many of you as Mark, and Freddie, known to others as Homer; and most of all in behalf of our silenced son, Mike, known to most as Tagui, we thank all who shared our bereavement.

The pain of losing Mike is indescribable. My talent for words is inadequate for the powerful reality of the pain. I feel like I am standing at the bottom of a deep, dark, dry well. I can see above a circle of bright blue sky but everywhere I turn I can only feel rough walls, see blinding darkness, and hear muffled echoes of oppressive silence. I have to raise my face to see the distant brightness above and try to get a whiff of the clean and fresh air beyond the hole of grief I am in.

Your sympathy and support help. Words of condolence, expressions of sympathy, acts of kindness, gestures of assistance, hugs, handshakes, whispered words of friendship, phone calls, flowers, Mass cards, text messages, e-mail notes, reverberations of distant prayers, ripples of personal remembrances—all these fall on me at the bottom of my deep, dark, dry well of grief like a steady drizzle of rain providing some relief from this terrible loneliness of loss. I turn my face to the sky above and feel the cool droplets of rain from the kindness of family, relatives, friends, comrades and colleagues.

* * *

BUT at times, despite my best efforts and your most generous help, there are moments when the sky above turns dark and night comes to me alone inside this deep, dark, dry well of emptiness that Mike's passing had left. I turn inward and, with eyes closed, ears covered and body tensed, I reach out within to my earliest memories of Mike as a baby not yet 2 years old sitting on our dining table on copies of the INQUIRER issue with headlines shouting that Marcos has fled after the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

Mike was our child of new hope in our newly liberated country. So many more memories flood back until I come to my last encounter with Mike alive as he rolled his eyes in mock laughter at my last corny joke he heard just before I left him at noon just two hours before he died. And as I connect with the everlasting Mike within me, I am again able to confront the mortal Mike in front of me whose remains will be cremated today.

I wondered, why should my memories of Mike be so important to keep alive now that he has died, when these same memories could very well have died to be replaced by new things had he gone on living and grown old? I now realize that my memories of Mike are the true remains of his mortal life, not the ashes that we will keep as a memento of his cremated body.

* * *

MIKE will live a very long life in the ever malleable memory of our family. He will occupy a place of honor in our meals. He will be a powerful spark in the energy of all our future enterprises. He will be a benign presence in every new thing or new happening that comes to our lives. Every part of me will remember the joy and happiness he brings to my life. But for some time from here on, Mike will be too painful to remember yet too precious to forget.

In time, the tears of my grief and the rain from your sympathy will fill up this well of loneliness I am in. I will ride the rise of its waters to the surface and I can then once more step into the bright world where the agenda of the living get done through a daily routine of professional engagements, social obligations, personal causes and interesting pursuits. But that is in the future. And when that time comes, my memories of Mike will have been transformed once again from one of missing the joys he brings to one of treasuring the wisdom his passing will teach. *(To be concluded)*

Fun in names

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

E-MAIL response to last Friday's column on Pinoy names was numerous and interesting. Two expatriates corrected me about public nose-picking. Peter Chong reports that, "In Singapore it is not uncommon to see picking of noses when waiting for traffic lights to turn green. Over here we hardly have a traffic jam to boast of..." The sheer boredom of waiting drove Filipinos to develop this habit into an art form. Mike Tan, the INQUIRER's resident anthropologist, surely has more to say on this but Dennis Concepcion wrote: "Your article today in the INQUIRER, as usual, is good reading. However, I have to disagree with you on one point—that picking noses in public is a uniquely Filipino invention. I have been on temporary work assignment here in Bangkok for two weeks now and I always see people picking their noses. They do it while walking, while driving, while working on their PCs, while riding in buses—even while eating at restaurants! But I must agree with you that rolling the fruit of the picking into a small gluey ball on the fingertips is one truly unique Filipino invention. Only in the Philippines!"

Sorry to disappoint those who think I fabricated the "Varicose Veins Taxi." Linda P. Tibby e-mailed, "Believe it or not but I have seen taxicabs called Dyslexia and Vomit. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw Vomit Taxi written on the door of the cab. Do these people know what they really mean?" Frankly, Dyslexia has a feminine ring to it and can be mistaken for a name but Varicose Veins and Vomit are things we can proudly call our own. A list of taxicab names is worth a future column. Why is it that if we have more taxis than Christian names, how come they are never available when you need them?

I was being playful when I wrote that the only names missing in the 1915 list that outlines the whole story of Jesus Christ, from birth (Natividad) to resurrection and ascension into heaven, were two events that begin with "C," namely Circumcision and Crucifixion. Bopeep Ladrido of UP Iloilo says her daughter had a bank client named Circumcision. One of the memorable moments of my paternal grandfather's wake was when my aunts had a laughing fit while going over the Mass cards—one was from "Circumcision Garcia." Harder to believe is that the little old woman's nickname was "Tuli." But all this is no laughing matter though for "Miraflor" from Stanford University who e-mailed:

"For your information, Circumcision was used by a girl who went to school in Dumaguete. Unfortunately, I cannot remember her last name. In Cebu, the surname 'Balig-oten' also exists. Literally, it means bent penis. A female student in Cebu carrying this name always had to cover her name tag embroidered on her uniform with a handkerchief or towel to hide this embarrassing surname.

"I do not take this issue lightly for many of these names were given to them by evil people manning the birth registry who thought it fun to arbitrarily give embarrassing names to the naive, illiterate citizens who came to their offices to register their children.

"This injustice is still heaped upon poor, innocent people coming to town with no preferred names at hand and are therefore left to the mercy of an unthinking, if cruel prankster clerk at the birth registry. You are the historian. Look beyond Manila and in church archives and you will find how surnames were given.

"Circumcision was given in the 20th century, and Balig-oten was probably handed down for generations during the Christianization of the Filipinos."

Although I have previously written on the 1849 Catalogo de Apellidos and the funny names therein, going through the list for the nth time is worth another column. Names today are so different from the Spanish-sounding names of old. For example, Bibiana has been anglicized into Vivian, then given French flavor and transformed into Vivien. Fidel Nemenzo of the UP Math Department wrote, "*Ikaw lang ang taga*-Ateneo na *kilala ko* who would pronounce Vivien as Bibyan! My father, who spent years in Manchester would definitely say Vivyin Vesaya." In the Philippines, there is a world of difference between the written and spoken word. So it's settled, Vivien Visaya should be Bibyan Beshaya. Fidel also adds that his father had townmates named Adolf Hitler and Yamashita. Now that's really scraping the bottom of the barrel.

Rudy Arizala, former Philippine ambassador to Chile, e-mailed: "My late mother gave names to her four children, mostly taken from what she read from the society page of the Manila Tribune. Although my parents had a ready name for me, it was the Red Cross nurses who happened to be in our town after a strong typhoon in 1929 who gave me the name 'Rodolfo' after the US famous actor at that time, 'Rodolfo Valentino.'"

Arizala also mentioned the trouble people go through when they produce a birth certificate to apply for a passport. In days past, it was usually the *hilot* or a kind neighbor who registers the name of a newly born child. Thus, my mother known as "Belen" all her 70 years was horrified to discover that her birth certificate carried the name "Valeriano," the masculine form of her wicked stepmother's name. A friend we all know as Romy turned out to be "Gorgonio." There is no end to fun in names.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

It takes partnership to fight poverty

COMMENTARY

Richard Ondrik

ARRIVING by jeepney, bus, taxi and on foot, protesters descended on the Ortigas Business District recently during the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Though they came from a variety of organizations and with myriad messages, they shared one important thing in common: a fervent desire to see better living and working conditions for the people of the Philippines and beyond.

By the hundreds, they voiced concerns ranging from the affordability of electricity and water, to transparency and accountability of public institutions, and the protection of core labor rights.

While there may not always be agreement on the specific approaches to these vital issues, the demonstrators and the ADB have a great deal in common, in particular their shared goal of reducing poverty in the Philippines and across the Asia and Pacific region. This, in fact, is the ADB's central goal.

The ADB realizes that fighting poverty is not a challenge that can be tackled by just one entity or sector of society. The combined forces of all key stakeholders are necessary, starting first and foremost with the poor themselves, together with governments, the private sector and organized civil society, including nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and labor unions and networks.

All of these stakeholders make an important contribution to nurturing an environment in which poor people can improve their livelihoods, and in assuring that decision-makers and the public at large are aware of the issues and tradeoffs inherent to development. International financial institutions like the ADB also play a key role by generating project funding, setting high environmental and social standards, promoting participation of stakeholders, and providing technical advice. The ADB is a public institution, working in partnership with the governments and peoples of the countries we serve.

Despite Asia's remarkable progress since the ADB's founding in 1966, the region is still home to two-thirds of the world's poor. In the Philippines, millions of people still suffer the indignity of poverty every day. This is unacceptable.

Poverty is an extremely complex problem with many causes and many outcomes. The ADB has long recognized that NGOs have experience and expertise in a wide range of areas that can help us in our effort to improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged in Asia and the Pacific.

To more effectively tap this experience and expertise, and improve cooperation with such organizations, the ADB set up its NGO Center in 2001. NGOs now participate in over half of all ADB projects, from Tajikistan, where NGOs are implementing a project to help farmers increase agricultural production, to Nepal, where an NGO is administering a microfinance project aimed at poor women, and Papua New Guinea, where NGOs are helping manage a skills development trust fund that creates jobs for students in vocational and entrepreneurial courses.

In the Philippines, we are working closely with NGOs to clean up the Pasig River, support renewable energy development in Negros Occidental, and improve community infrastructure and basic services in 23 communities around Metro Manila. The ADB has worked closely with community-based organizations to improve the living conditions of forest-dwellers, fisherfolk and agrarian reform communities, and to create sustainable microcredit operations and microfinance institutions. The ADB is proud to have developed a close working relationship with these grass-roots organizations and looks upon them as key partners for its future work in the country.

In recent months, the ADB has taken two major steps designed to substantially expand and deepen its serious engagement with NGOs. In early May, it adopted a new framework designed to strengthen nongovernment participation in ADB activities, train ADB staff on how to work effectively with civil society organizations, and also provide training for public officials in member countries to improve government-NGO cooperation.

The way the framework was designed illustrates the value the ADB puts on cooperation and the sharing of ideas. The action plan is the result of consultations and discussions with over 500 representatives of civil society organizations, governments, the private sector and ADB staff held at 14 workshops around Asia and in Australia.

In early June, the ADB approved a new $500,000 grant fund to help NGOs design and carry out innovative projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving cooperation between these groups, governments and the ADB. This fund is seen as the first step in developing a long-term mechanism for direct financing of NGO initiatives targeting the poor.

Asia and the Pacific have made huge strides forward in recent decades. In the early 1970s, more than half the population of the region was poor, average life expectancy was 48 years, and only 40 percent of adults could read and write. Today, the percentage of poor people has fallen to about one-third of the population, life expectancy has increased to 65 years, and about 70 percent of adults are literate.

This is real progress representing concrete improvements in hundreds of millions of peoples' lives. But there is still an immense amount of work to be done. A quick walk through Makati gives a clear picture of the progress achieved in the Philippines. But a walk through Tondo just as clearly highlights the challenges we all still face.

The Asian Development Bank is determined to fight poverty and to work steadfastly toward a better future for the Philippines and the rest of Asia and the Pacific. And in doing so, it will continue its close collaboration with any group that can help it achieve these essential goals.

Richard Ondrik is the Asian Development Bank's acting country director for the Philippines.

THEY SAID

Demoting the President

"She (President Macapagal-Arroyo) is the premier figure of People Power II. Figuring in such a transition scenario put forward by a non-official would be a demotion in her place in the country's history."

—Presidential aspirant Raul Roco on the charter change scenario floated by presidential adviser Norberto Gonzales

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LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Worried about mining in Samar

I WAS reading the article of Mayor Melchor F. Nacario of Samar on the Internet ("To exploit or protect?" PDI, 9/29/03), and as a citizen of Samar who has left to work and settle abroad because of poverty in my beloved island, I could not help but feel saddened by the renewed threat of mining.

Yes, $25 billion may be the promised reward for digging up our beautiful, resource-rich island, but at what price? The death of 25 rivers? The poisoning of the seas around us? The destruction of the livelihood of thousands of Samareños who depend on the rivers, forests and sea for their survival?

Besides, who stands to benefit from the billions of dollars, but only the multinationals and the misguided (or should we say the crooked), government officials who have agreed to open up Samar to further exploitation?

In the same issue of the INQUIRER, it was reported that a fresh battalion of government troops has been flown to Samar to crush the NPA there. But should we not study deeper why the NPA is so successful in Samar? For all we know, the NPA is acceptable to the people because it can serve as the people's only defense against foreign exploiters and their local cohorts.

I think that for as long as these greedy capitalists do not care a whit about the environment and see only their profit, and for as long as the state is always conditioned to use the armed forces to protect vested interests, armed conflicts (like the one which has been raging in Samar since colonial times), will be wars without any end.

I am already peacefully settled in a distant land, but sometimes I wonder if I made the right decision, leaving my relatives and compatriots behind. I may be too moderate-minded to be an activist, or even a rebel, but I will try to find a way to help, materially and morally, my fellow Samareños who have never known the true benefits of living in a real democracy.

I am also beginning to understand why hundreds of my provincemates are willing to risk their lives by joining a guerrilla army. I may or may not agree with its members' ideology, but I salute their courage and their commitment.

—IRWIN ROÑO COROCOTO,
The Middlesex Hospital,
Mortimer Street, London,
United Kingdom

Taiwan turned crisis into opportunity

WITH THE RECENT decision of the World Health Organization to remove Taiwan from the list of SARS-infected areas, we hope that people will find our country a safer and healthy place to visit.

Taiwan's removal from the WHO's list is the result of great efforts and sacrifices on the part of many people, especially medical personnel, to bring the SARS epidemic under control. In the process, we learned to care for one another and to strengthen our sense of community amid adversity.

While the SARS outbreak brought inconveniences to people in their daily lives and wreaked havoc on our economy, we have turned this crisis into opportunity. The government has begun to implement public works programs and to expand employment in public services. Our legislature also passed a special budget for SARS prevention.

Our removal from the SARS list is only the beginning. Many countries have experienced relapses of SARS after initially bringing the disease under control. Therefore, we cannot afford to let down our guard.

While we have won a major victory against the disease, we cannot forget how Beijing put politics above human lives and hindered our efforts to seek the help of the WHO to control the SARS epidemic.

—ROBERT T.J. SHIH,
director, Information Division,
Taipei Economic
and Cultural Office,
2/F Low Rise Tower, Makati City

Fernando has done better than all his predecessors

AL Mendoza, in his July 3 column "MMDA an aberration; Abalos an inspiration," pointed out correctly the main duties of the MMDA: traffic management, garbage disposal and, of course, the beautification of the metropolis and flood control. These were its functions when it was still called the Metropolitan Manila Commission during the martial law years, before it was renamed the Metropolitan Manila Authority under Cory Aquino, and when Congress passed in 1996 during the incumbency of President Fidel Ramos, Republic Act 7924, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Since its birth in 1976, this metropolitan government was able to withstand political vicissitudes, which only underscores the enduring relevance and validity of its concept. Precisely, there is a need for a metropolitan body like the MMDA because those functions mentioned by Mendoza could not be confined to the territorial jurisdictions of the cities and municipalities. The whole stretch of Edsa, for instance, traverses the cities of Caloocan, Quezon, the town of San Juan, the cities of Mandaluyong, Pasay and finally Manila.

The MMDA is an aberration? I beg to disagree. But Bayani Fernando absolutely is. For in the classroom of traditional politicians, surely Fernando would not find a seatmate, much less a seat or even a space to stand.

Mendoza gave Fernando credit for "widening some streets and "clearing many sidewalks" but said "he remains a flop like his predecessors." Fernando was just a year in office last June, but none of those he succeeded, including the father of Mendoza's favorite mayor, the former MMDA chair and now Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, even tried to do what Fernando has done.

—ALEJO S. SAGUITSIT,
Barangay Bangkal, Makati City

Is Malampaya part of Palawan?

NO less than President Macapagal-Arroyo said publicly a few months ago that Malampaya is "far off Palawan." Meaning, Malampaya is not part of Palawan and therefore the said province may not be entitled to its oil revenues.

As a native-born Palaweño, it rankles to hear such a statement. It is not only incredulous but also unacceptable. Ever since, it is a matter of common knowledge besides being an accepted fact among us Palaweños, that Malampaya is within the territorial waters of Palawan. Unless, of course, such a belief could be proven wrong.

It was thus a gutsy move and a bold decision by Gov. Joel Reyes and the members of the Provincial Board to file a case before the Court to settle once and for all whether Malampaya is indeed a part of Palawan or not. Since we believe in the rule of law, then let the Court adjudicate on the case. To us, Palaweños, the case is truly of much concern and, naturally, the decision much awaited.

Meanwhile, an enigmatic question poses itself: If Malampaya is not part of Palawan, then what foreign country owns it?

—DAVID V. FELICIANO,
Adlas, Silang, Cavite

Does NFA have to transfer to Ortigas?

WE wonder what Administrator Arthur Yap of the National Food Authority (NFA) is up to. He wants the NFA Central Office to transfer from its present location on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City to One San Miguel Building in Ortigas Center, Pasig City that will cost the government almost P60 million for transfer costs alone.

Yap is lying through his teeth when he said it would only cost P11.7 million for the transfer cost. The NFA employees union did its homework and this is what it found out. If we include from Yap's estimate of P11.7 million the deposit and advance payments (P15 million), double rental for four months of both the Quezon City and Pasig buildings while transfer is in progress (P30 million), the transfer cost alone will reach P56.7 million. This amount is more than enough to start the construction of a new and permanent office building for the NFA.

The transfer to One San Miguel Building will cause major inconvenience to the majority of employees who are residents of Quezon City and Bulacan, and NFA stakeholders, who are mostly farmers. For one, affordable public transportation is not easily accessible to ordinary commuters to and from the Ortigas area. The NFA is supposed to reach out to its clients and not the other way around—to make transactions as convenient as possible.

After six long years and two extensive studies made, previous administrators endorsed the construction of a new and permanent building at the NFA-owned lot in Visayas Avenue, Quezon City as the most economical and ideal place to transfer. But Yap junked these studies and insists on transferring to the luxurious One San Miguel Building.

And this adds insult to injury—Yap recently asked the NFA Council, the agency's highest policymaking body, to prohibit representatives from the NFA Employees Association from joining the council meeting to present the union's position paper on this issue.

We think Yap has a lot of explaining to do regarding this concern. Meanwhile, the taxpaying public will think of the NFA management as brutally insensitive if it insists to transfer to a temporary building in a location unfavorable to the agency.

—ROMAN M. SANCHEZ,
president, NFA Employees
Association Central,
101 Matimyas Bldg.,
E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City

Don't privatize those hospitals

I AM a senior citizen approaching the age of 80. I have my share of old-age sicknesses—hypertension, kidney afflictions, glaucoma and a case of pleurisy. I receive treatments and check-ups at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Philippine Heart Center, the Philippine General Hospital and the Lung Center—all in each of their out-patient departments. The treatments and periodic check-ups have prolonged my life. As an out-patient, I spend a minimal amount for medicines and laboratory tests.

Thousands of patients avail of the services of the "specialty hospitals," especially the common people. There were reports of converting these hospitals or privatizing them; in other words, making it expensive to avail of their services and facilities. As a humble citizen, I am not in favor of privatizing these hospitals. They should continue as government-owned and serve the poor sector of our society.

July 2 was the birth anniversary of the one responsible for the construction of these "specialty hospitals," former First Lady Imelda Marcos. Whether she is a "saint or sinner" as some people brand her, she has done a lot of good for me and those others like me.

—CELESTINO P. TANGONAN,
2613 Molave St., United Hills
Village, Parañaque City

July 8, 2003

Her Excellency GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO
President - Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace

Dear Madame President:

We thank you for your speedy and decisive action, through Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and other officials of the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in clarifying matters relating to Revenue Regulation 16-2003, and in protecting our rights as citizens and small entrepreneurs.

We owe our gratitude to you in hearing our grievances and preventing an injustice from happening. We hope that you will always be there to uplift the entrepreneurial spirit of the small Filipino.

Sincerely yours,

GARY DELA CRUZ
Greater Manila Tianggeros Association

YUSOPH SACAR
President- Greenhills Muslim Trader Association

MANNY MACARAMBON
Coordinator-Greenhills Muslim Trader Association

AL MAGSAMBOL
Coordinator--Furniture & Home Furnishings, Lifestyle Center GSC

July 1, 2003

In a meeting with the DOF Secretary **JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO** and Greater Manila Tianggeros Association and Muslim Traders Association regarding the implementation of RR 16 - 2003, it was clarified that "Privilege - Stores" or "Tiangges" include only those not registered with the BIR and do not issue official receipts/invoices on their sales. Once registered a "privilege-store" or "tiangge" ceases to be so and will then be covered and taxed under existing pertinent revenue laws and regulations.

The associations committed to assist the BIR in the dissemination and information campaign relative to the need of tiangge participants to register and issue receipts/ invoices.

On the other hand, the BIR, through the BIR on wheels, will assist the "tianggeros" in their registration needs.

Others who participated the meeting were:

Usec. **MA. GRACIA M. PULIDO-TAN**
Sr. Deputy Commissioner **LICERIO EVANGELISTA**
Deputy Commissioner **JOSE MARIO BUÑAG**
Manila Regional Director **RUPERTO SOMERA**
Manila Legal Division Chief **MARIO SALDEVAR**
Revenue District Officer **ORLANDO CHIO**

YUSOPH SACAR
Pres. Greenhills Muslim Trader Association, Inc.

MANNY MACARAMBON
Coordinator-Greenhills Muslim Traders Association, Inc.

GARY DELA CRUZ
Greater Manila Tianggeros Association

AL MAGSOMBOL
Coordinator-Furniture & Home Furnishings, Lifestyle Center GSC

Advt.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US loses 32nd soldier in 'post-war' Iraq

BAGHDAD—The United States lost its 32nd soldier in postwar combat in Iraq on Monday, underscoring the difficulties it faces in quashing resistance as a Governing Council of local leaders began its work.

The US military is braced for a surge in attacks this week to coincide with anniversaries linked to ousted president Saddam Hussein, his Baath Party and Iraqi nationalism.

A group that said it was an Iraqi branch of the al-Qaida network claimed responsibility for attacks on US soldiers in an audio tape broadcast Sunday but its rhetoric sounded more typical of Saddam supporters than Islamic militants.

A blast damaged an empty parked car used by the Tunisian ambassador Monday afternoon but caused no casualties. Witnesses said drive-by attackers had thrown a small bomb at the car but the US military said the cause was not yet clear.

The explosion happened a few hundred meters away from the compound housing the new Governing Council in Baghdad and close to other buildings used by the US-led occupying authorities.

The 25-member Council, launched on Sunday, decided to send a delegation to the United Nations Security Council and set up three committees to define its priorities and procedures, including who should lead it.

In the latest attack on US troops, assailants fired on a convoy in the central al-Mansour area of Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding 10 others, the military said.

Witnesses said one vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and another by machine-gun fire. Bloodstains on an armored Humvee vehicle and the crumpled cab of an army truck bore testament to the attack.

Dozens of US troops searched the area as helicopters hovered above. Soldiers searching an abandoned house in the area found a light machine gun probably used in the attack.

Thirty-two US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

The growing death toll has intensified pressure on the Bush administration to defend itself against charges that it misled the public by using dubious intelligence to justify the war.

Democrats and even some Republicans in the United States are raising questions about Bush's use of faulty intelligence when he said in his State of the Union speech last winter that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa in its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

But Bush on Monday defended the quality of CIA intelligence as he tried to calm the growing storm. "I think the intelligence I get is darn good intelligence. And the speeches I have given were backed by good intelligence," he said.

The Governing Council in Iraq, which the United States hopes will ease resentment of its occupation after the war that ousted Saddam, got down to business Monday and promptly decided to make its mark on the world stage.

"The Council ... decided to send a delegation to the UN Security Council to strengthen and consolidate the Governing Council's role as the legitimate Iraqi authority during this transitional period," it said in a statement.

The Council can nominate ministers, review laws and approve budgets but Iraq's US-led administration remains the ultimate authority. To be followed later by a new constitution and free elections, the body is seen as a first step toward democracy.

It could elect a single chairman or choose to have its presidency rotate among representatives of Iraq's various religious and ethnic groups, political sources said.

US officers largely blame diehard Saddam loyalists for attacks on their soldiers, but many ordinary Iraqis have expressed frustration at what they say has been the slow pace of returning government to Iraqis and rebuilding the country.

Iraqis cooperating with the occupying powers have also been attacked.

Assailants fired rocket-propelled grenades at a police station in the northern city of Mosul Monday, wounding three members of the new US-backed Iraqi police, residents said. *Reuters*

FORMER South African President Nelson Mandela delivering a lecture in aid of the British Red Cross in London, July 10. REUTERS

India's decision not to send troops to Iraq hailed

NEW DELHI—The Indian media and opposition hailed Tuesday the government's decision not to send troops to Iraq, as press reports indicated the prime minister himself had pulled the plug on the controversial proposal.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had initially been open to Washington's request that India provide some 17,000 troops to a stabilization force in war-wracked Iraq, a report in the Hindu newspaper said.

But he eventually rejected it after it became clear that the troops were likely to have to stay at least two-and-a-half years and had a high chance of suffering deaths and injuries, it said.

Vajpayee also feared there would be bad publicity for his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of key state and national elections should Indian soldiers be brought home in body bags, the daily said.

Resistance to the proposal from India's main opposition political leader Sonia Gandhi and similar reactions from Iraq's neighbors, Iran and Turkey, clinched the decision for Vajpayee, it said.

"Both Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and the leader of the opposition, Sonia Gandhi, were against the idea; perhaps the only time in recent years when the two have held the same view," the report said.

Members of India's ruling coalition, it added, were not prepared to accept a situation "where the troops would get killed doing some other power's dirty work". The Indian Cabinet announced Monday it would not send troops to Iraq unless under a United Nations mandate, although it was ready to help in the reconstruction of the country.

The Hindustan Times said Tuesday that the army had kept an entire division on standby in case the government gave the go-ahead. The air force was also prepared to go to Iraq.

In an editorial, the Hindu described the decision as "right and sensible" as there was no reason to stake the lives of soldiers spending huge national funds for "an illegitimate act of aggression." It added that India should not feel obliged to send troops even if the UN took the helm of the peacekeeping operations in Iraq.

"Having taken the right and sensible decision, the Indian government must now act in conjunction with other countries to put pressure on the US and UK to disengage from Iraq—by agreeing, among other things, to give primacy to the United Nations in the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction," the Hindu said. *AFP*

Revered Mandela turns 85, is still acerbic at times

JOHANNESBURG—Nelson Mandela, who turns 85 on Friday, charms audiences with his self-deprecatory wit and humanity, but does not hesitate to speak out at what he perceives as injustice or bullying by powerful nations.

"I want to be a friend of the United States of America but I'm not going to allow what they've done for me to shut my mouth," he said in criticizing Washington's decision to attack Iraq without a UN mandate.

He went on to declare that George W. Bush was "a president who can't think properly" and described British Prime Minister Tony Blair as Bush's "foreign minister." Bush, unsurprisingly, failed to request a meeting with Mandela—a photo-opportunity for virtually all visiting leaders—on his recent tour of Africa.

Mandela, who was president of South Africa from the end of apartheid in 1994 until he relinquished the office in 1999, has devoted his considerable energy since then to mediating conflicts, especially the civil war in Burundi, where a transitional government is now in place, and gouging money out of big business to set up schools in rural areas.

He even came up with a plan—rejected by the warring parties—for peace in the Middle East.

US President Bill Clinton revealed in 2000 that Mandela had comforted him in the aftermath of the Monica Lewinsky affair, saying in an interview with The Times of London: "Mandela helped me to deal with this ... how to think about it ... that really helped me." Hillary Clinton, in her memoir "Living History," likened her ability to forgive her husband to Mandela's ability to forgive his jailers.

An activist since his student days at Fort Hare University College in the southeast, Mandela opened the first black law firm in Johannesburg in 1952, along with fellow activist Oliver Tambo, and was imprisoned several times before beginning his 27-year term for treason and sabotage in 1964.

"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination," he said in a famous speech from the dock during the trial, where he faced the possibility of a death sentence.

"I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." Mandela became commander in chief of Umkhonto weSizwe (Spear of the Nation), the armed wing of the African National Congress, in 1961, and the following year underwent military training in Algeria and Ethiopia, but he was in prison for most of the fighting between black guerrillas and the apartheid regime's security forces. *AFP*

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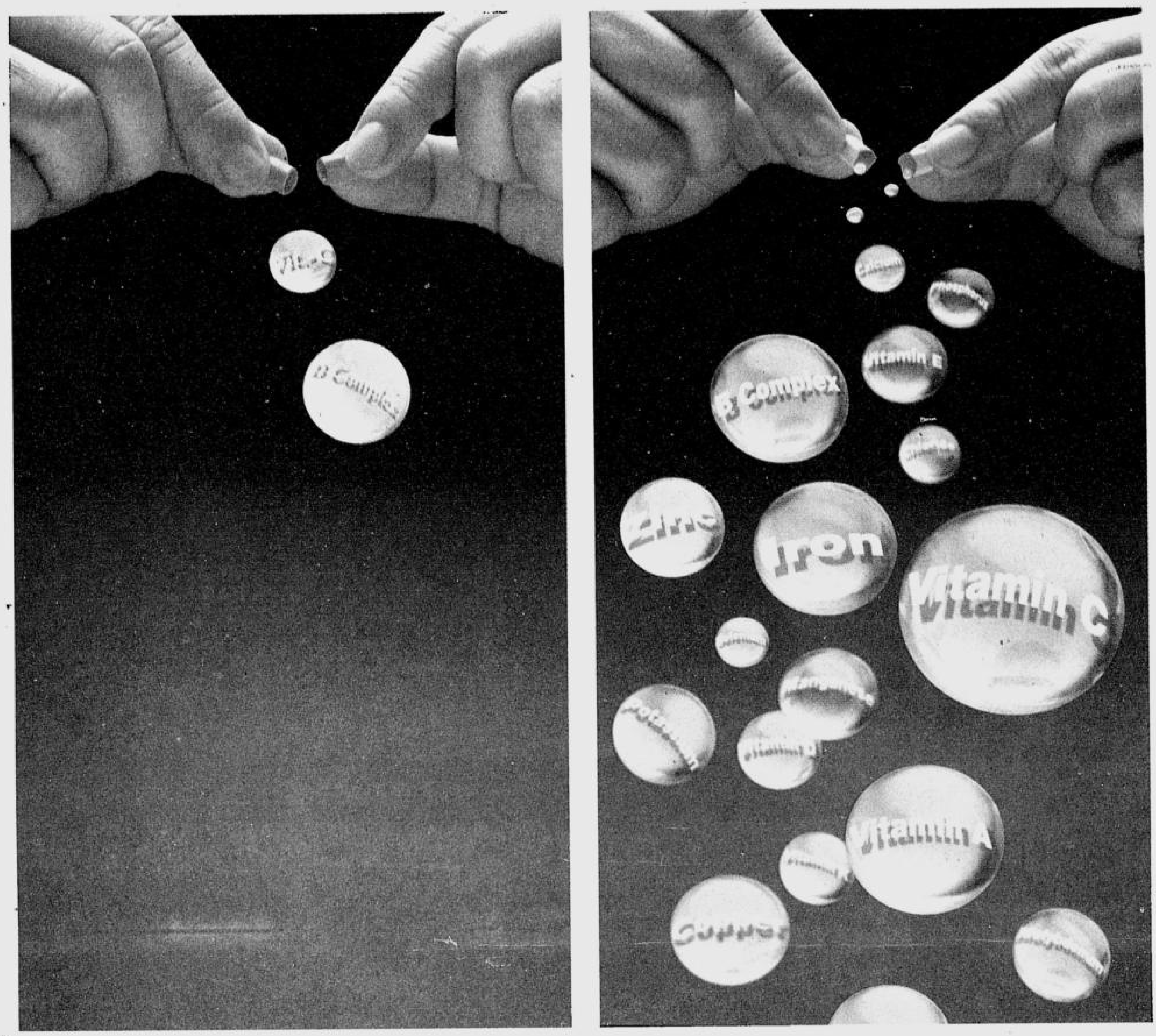
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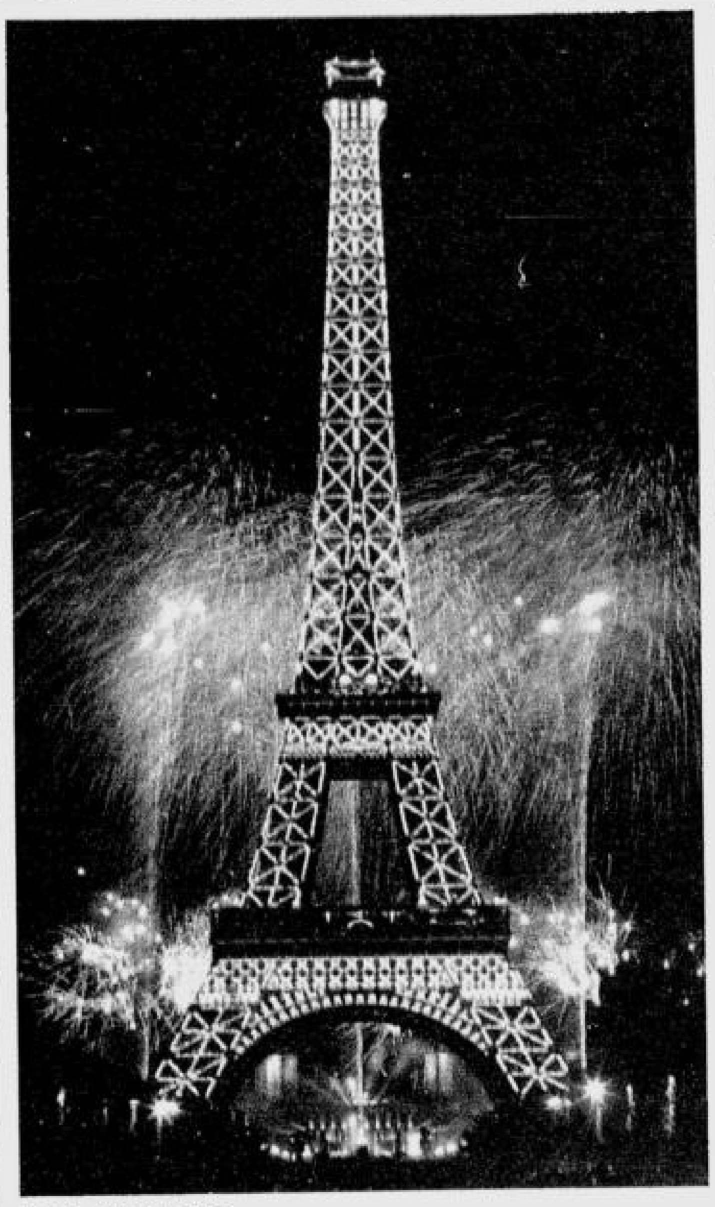

BASTILLE DAY
Fireworks explode behind the Eiffel tower, specially lit with thousands of bulblights, to celebrate the closing of Bastille Day, France's national holiday, July 14. REUTERS

Bush may intervene in Liberia

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush indicated he was open to a "limited" deployment of US troops to prop up a ceasefire in turbulent Liberia.

Bush said on Monday he had a "a meeting of minds" with visiting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who has been pressing him to intervene in the West African nation, where protracted warfare has destabilized the region.

"Any commitment we have would be limited in size and limited in tenure," Bush said, adding that he was waiting for final assessment reports from US teams in West Africa before making a final decision.

Just back from a trip to Africa, Bush said he told Annan that "we want to help" in bringing peace to Liberia and that for US troops to participate, Liberian President Charles Taylor must leave. Taylor has been blamed for fomenting warfare in the region, particularly in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Bush apparently is waiting to see whether the regional grouping, Ecowas, the Economic Community of West African States, can organize some 4,000 or so troops, participants in the meeting said. Any US contribution would be well under 2,000 soldiers, they added.

"What I am telling you is we want to help Ecowas. It may require troops. But we don't know how many yet. And therefore, it's hard for me to make a determination until I've seen all the facts," Bush told reporters.

Annan outlined a more detailed sequence for a Liberia operation, saying Ecowas would initially send 1,000 to 1,500 troops. Then Taylor would leave, while at the same time US troops would arrive as well as more soldiers from West Africa.

During this period, the United Nations would organize a peacekeeping force of "blue helmets." "And once the situation is calm and stabilized, the US would leave and the UN peacekeepers will carry on the operation," Annan said. None of the American peacekeepers would be under UN command.

Some UN officials thought UN peacekeepers would arrive in about six months but US sources said they doubted Bush would allow American troops to stay in Liberia that long.

Nigeria, the backbone of Ecowas, wants 3,500 US troops but the sources said this was far too high for the administration.

At the same time, a June ceasefire between rebels and government troops appears to be holding only because of anticipation of US troops in Liberia, founded 150 years ago by freed American slaves.

Annan came to Washington with his top officials to discuss the Middle East, post-war Iraq, the Congo conflict, AIDS and a $1 billion loan the United Nations wants from Washington to renovate its deteriorating Manhattan headquarters. *Reuters*

S. Korea: No evidence on North's nuke arms claim

SEOUL—South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan said Monday Seoul and Washington had no direct evidence to confirm that North Korea had finished reprocessing spent fuel rods for nuclear weapons.

"There have been no scientific data and evidence to confirm North Korea has finished reprocessing spent fuel rods," Yoon told a domestic radio program.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Sunday North Korea had told the United States it had completed reprocessing 8,000 spent fuel rods to extract plutonium for nuclear weapons.

UN-based North Korean envoys confirmed at talks with US officials last week in New York that the reprocessing was completed on June 30, the agency said.

It quoted Chang Sung-Min, a former South Korean ruling party lawmaker, as saying the informal meeting was attended by North Korea's UN representative Park Gil-Yon and US State Department official Jack Pritchard.

Yoon confirmed that the New York meeting had taken place and said Washington had briefed Seoul on what transpired during the talks.

However he refused to elaborate on the meeting and expressed doubt over the North's reported claim.

"South Korea and the United States have until now failed to secure evidence despite efforts through various channels," he said. *AFP*

Toronto SARS deaths now 40

TORONTO—Health officials in Toronto reported another SARS death on Monday, which brought the death toll from the deadly disease in the city to 40.

Ontario's Health Ministry said in a release that a 76-year-old woman had died on Friday. It also said the number of probable cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome fell to 17, from 21 two weeks ago, with seven people remaining in critical condition.

The World Health Organization took Toronto off its list of SARS-affected areas on July 2, for the second time, prompting hopes the city's nightmare with the deadly respiratory disease was finally over after nearly 400 cases.

Toronto, a city of about four million people, is the only place outside Asia where SARS has claimed lives. *Reuters*

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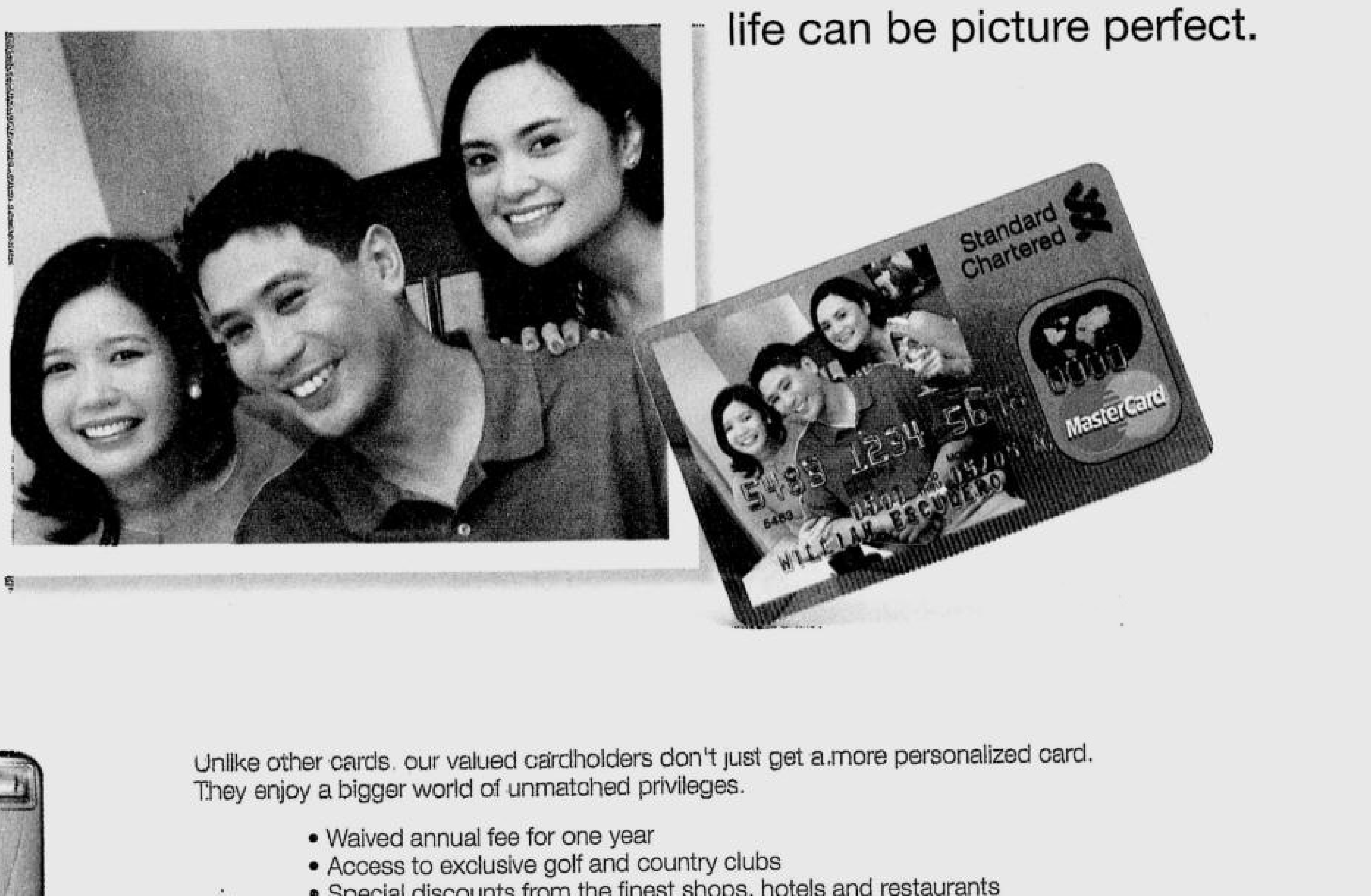

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Probe of mining in E. Samar urged

By Eden B. Cidro, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—The Diocese of Borongan has asked Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun to look into the impact of mining operations on the islands of Homonhon and Manicani in Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

In a letter, Bishop Leonardo Medroso of Borongan urged Gozun to create an independent investigative team, composed of representatives from the affected parties, to avoid any partial judgement or reports favorable to certain interests.

He also asked full disclosure and access to relevant documents and the operational and financial status of the mining companies.

Homonhon and Manicani are part of the Guiuan Protected Seascapes and Landscapes, declared on Sept. 26, 1994, through Presidential Proclamation 469.

The recommendations were made after the Borongan Diocese received the report of a special Diocesan team that conducted an investigation on the impact of mining operations on the two islands.

The team was composed of Fr. Alex Galo, parish priest of Manicani; Fr. Manny Lunario of Homonhon; Rev. Lito Amande, Ian Mosquisa, social action director, and private media practitioners.

The Diocesan report contradicted an earlier report of a special team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources created by then Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez that conducted an investigation on the islands on Jan. 13-19.

It said that the DENR report was favorable to the mining entities, and the mining operations.

In his letter, Bishop Medroso said he was inclined to believe that the DENR report was "full of inconsistencies and contradictions, and that giving reliance on this report for policy and executive considerations would be tantamount to added miseries to the poor people of Manicani and Homonhon."

The Diocesan report aired the concerns of Homonhon residents, such as the environmental damage caused by the operation of Heritage Resources and Mining Corp. (HRMC).

The report cited the siltation of the Canawayon Bay, and the pollution of the islands' river system and waterways of the Magellan Landing site.

It was also found that HRMC violated some terms and conditions in the Environment Compliance Certificate, and in 1997, was fined P150,000.

It also failed to impose safety measures in the mining site, which caused the death of Nicasio Princillo who was crushed when a stockpile of soil collapsed on him.

The report said the Homonhon Livelihood Mining Program (HLMP) was a failure. The HRMC conceptualized the HLMP with the intent to organize cooperatives in Homonhon's eight barangays.

HRMC envisioned the cooperatives to be the centerpiece of a mass-based mining scheme.

There are only two cooperatives. The rest had either stopped operating or were not organized at all. The co-op members claimed that they were not paid on time.

The residents of Manicani also voiced their opposition to the resumption of operations of the Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC).

Heavy siltation was noted in the coastal areas around Manicani, affecting the main livelihood of the residents, which is fishing.

The siltation also affected the mangrove reforestation project on the island. The residents complained of water scarcity when the HMC was in operation.

Opposition to HMC operations has been evident since 1991 when a group of residents barricaded the mining site.

In 2001, a mining engineer was killed by irate anti-mine protestors. On April 30, 2001, an anti-mining protestor was crushed to death.

Pope pays tribute to 'Bishop of the Poor'

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The blistering heat did not stop thousands of Negrenses from bidding their last goodbye to Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich, known as the "bishop of the poor" who served the Bacolod Diocese for almost 60 years.

Many shed tears as they followed the carriage carrying Fortich's remains in a procession around the plaza at about 9 a.m. yesterday.

Sixteen bishops and about 300 priests led the crowd of about 7,000 in the slow march around the plaza as the band played a dirge.

It was like Good Friday as people silently grieved. Even the militant group Bayan Muna held off its usual protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo who attended the funeral.

The procession culminated at the San Sebastian Cathedral at about 9:30 a.m. for the Requiem Mass. Only about 1,500 persons were permitted inside the Cathedral, which was closed during the Mass for security reasons because President Macapagal was inside.

Members of Fortich's family were present during the Mass but his only sister, Caridad, 88, was unable to come because she was still confined in a Dumaguete City hospital.

Among the government officials who attended the Mass were Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, Undersecretary Teresita Deles of the National Poverty Commission, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon and Bacolod Mayor Luzviminda Valdez.

Members of militant groups, however, protested because they were not allowed inside the Church.

At about 11 a.m., the doors of the Cathedral were opened to the public for last viewing.

About 20,000 people from all walks of life filed past the coffin of Fortich, said Msgr. Victorino Rivas, Vicar General of the Diocese of Bacolod.

At about 1:15 p.m., Bishop Vicente Navarro of Bacolod Diocese officiated the final blessing.

As the San Sebastian choir sang the "Lord is my Shepherd" and "Cry of the Poor," many of the people inside the Church cried silently as they watched the coffin being placed in a tomb at the right side of the altar.

Fortich died on July 2 from multiple organ failure. He was 89.

During the Mass, Pope John Paul II and President Macapagal were among those who paid tribute to the legacy of Fortich who was not just a pastor to his flock but a "father" and a friend as well.

In a message read by Fr. Walter Irbi of the Apostolic Nunciature, Pope John Paul II recalled "with gratitude Fortich's zealous Episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Bacolod and his lively concern for the dignity and rights of the poor."

"To all who mourn the late Bishop in the hope of Resurrection, the Holy Father cordially" imparts his Apostolic blessing as a pledge of consolation and strength in the Lord," according to the message of the Pope sent by Cardinal Angel Sodano, Secretary of State of the Vatican.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo in his Homily said "Fortich brought the Church down from its floating pedestal, down to the heart of the struggling masses."

Fortich's memory will live on when the clergy go on serving the poor passionately, when people never relinquish the quest for peace and justice, and when the poor feels the Church struggles at their side, he said.

Drug users, pushers wooed with cash, jobs

DAVAO CITY—"It's either *kamatayon* (death) or *tabangan nimo* (you help)."

This was how Mayor Rodrigo Duterte responded to the growing number of suspected illegal drug pushers and users in the city who surrendered to authorities in the past weeks.

Police records show that more than 200 persons involved in drugs have surrendered to authorities following the spate of vigilante killings.

To encourage more persons involved in drugs to give up, Duterte is giving P2,000 for each of the surrenderers as pocket money while undergoing rehabilitation. The mayor said he would use part of his peace and order fund for the allowance of those undergoing drug rehabilitation.

With the allowance, he said, a drug dependent who undergoes rehabilitation would be compelled to see the doctor regularly or report to the authorities of their progress.

He also promised to give them a "little livelihood," should they surrender and follow the rehabilitation program.

The police have also started spray-painting with the words "Alsa Droga supporter" the houses of suspected drug pushers.

In General Santos City, Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. said he was not in favor of spray-painting as it would place all the members of his family in disgrace.

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief in Central Mindanao, said spray-painting should only be done after the conviction of a suspected drug pusher. ***Dennis Jay Santos and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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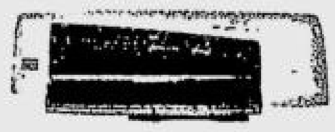

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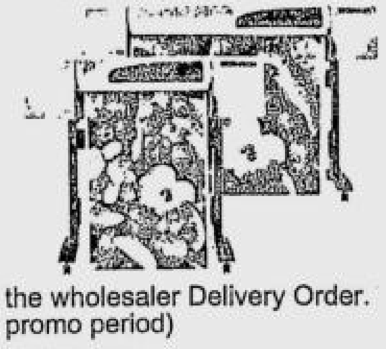

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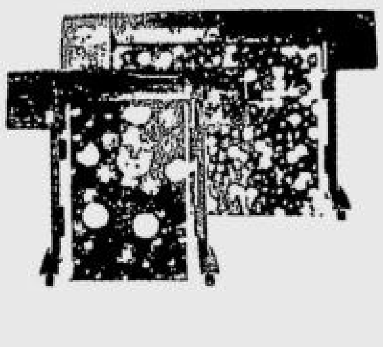

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BIR official in Mandaue arrested for extortion

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The police yesterday arrested an official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Mandaue City who was accused of extorting money from businessman Vicente Ygot.

Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG 7) collared lawyer Reynaldo Dos-Uno, group supervisor of the BIR office in Mandaue City, during an entrapment operation.

Dos-Uno, however, denied the accusation. He said he was surprised that Ygot gave him money in his office yesterday.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, CIDG-7 chief, said the entrapment operation stemmed from Ygot's complaint that Dos-Uno asked money from Ygot on Monday when he went to his office and asked the computation of his real property tax for his land, which was to be distributed to his children.

Ygot said he was surprised when Dos-Uno told him that his tax obligation was P89,000, considering that it was just a small parcel of land. He could not specify the land area.

The businessman asked Dos-Uno to reduce the amount. Ygot claimed that Dos-Uno agreed to cut his tax obligation to P24,000 provided he got at least half of the excess amount of P65,000. Ygot said he later agreed to the arrangement.

ROUNDUP

Fuentebella explains

NAGA CITY—Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William Fuentabella denied the allegations of Gov. Luis Villafuerte that he maneuvered the provincial sortie of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. Fuentebella also denied Villafuerte's allegation that no consultation was held in the province. He said he understood why Villafuerte was complaining, as the governor was not invited in the consultation. "He was not invited because it was NPC's (Nationalist People's Coalition) activity. Villafuerte belongs to LDP," Fuentebella said.

Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebel killed

LEGAZPI CITY—A new recruit of the New People's Army (NPA) died while four long firearms were recovered by government troops in an encounter in Barangay Kinalanga, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur. Capt. Marlon Ocfemia, spokesperson of the 9th Civil Affairs Unit of the 9th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, said the encounter happened after they received complaints about the presence of armed men in the area. The firefight resulted in the death of a still unidentified NPA member. No one was hurt on the government side. Four M16 armalite rifles and three jungle packs containing anti-government documents were recovered, Ocfemia said.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebel yields

LEGAZPI CITY—A New People's Army commander, Aniceto Cabria alias Ka Jomar, 35, has surrendered to the government. Cabria, of Iriga City, said he was the team leader of the "Kilusang Sangay sa Iskwad" of the Bicol Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Capt. Marlon Ocfemia, Bicol Army spokesperson, said Cabria admitted during interrogation that he could no longer bear the hardship of hiding in the mountains while his loved ones starved at home.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Highway robberies

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—Two unidentified armed groups took away P1.6 million in cash and tons of yellow corn in two separate highway robberies in Batangas last week. Five masked armed men flagged down at gunpoint the service vehicle of a small trading company, WLO Marketing based in San Pablo City, engaged in selling prepaid cell phone cards along the Maharlika Highway near the boundary of this town and Alaminos, Laguna and took with P1.6 million in cash. Another group of four armed men hijacked a trailer truck containing 35 tons of yellow corn in Barangay Poblacion, Padre Garcia. The victims said four armed men forcibly took their blue Isuzu tractor and its trailer loaded with yellow corn from Ilagan, Isabela and later dropped them in an isolated place.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Police chief probed for unsolved crimes

BATANGAS CITY—The Batangas police director is being investigated for a trail of complaints on unsolved crimes and drug problems in the province.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said the investigation of Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, which started last weekend, was pushed by complaints from the provincial board members "who have long been complaining of the unsolved killings that have hounded different parts of Batangas."

But Magtibay denied he was being investigated when interviewed by the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the cases that the police have been following up grow weaker everyday because key witnesses to the crimes have refused to testify.

Among the unsolved cases in the province, according to council members are, the murders of engineering contractor Boy Serrano of Barangay Banaba in this city; dentist Carmelo Delgado of San Pascual town; Councilor Rene Eugenio of Talisay and Councilor Bernardo Gomez of Calatagan.

Another unsolved case is the killing in April of SPO4 Heminiano Calapati, the warrants chief of the provincial police office, that put to a halt the operations against illegal drugs in the third district of Batangas.

The mutilated remains of an inmate, charged of raping a grade schooler and who had just escaped, was found in Tanauan while a woman's decapitated leg was discovered rotting in a subdivision in Nasugbu.

"Those killings have so many things in common—all the victims were haplessly killed in daring attacks by gunwielding criminals, and all of the killers have escaped, leaving no traces of their whereabouts. All the killings happened during Magtibay's term as provincial police director, and all of them have remained unsolved until now," provincial board member Godofredo Berberabe Jr. said.

Magtibay assumed office in November last year.

Another complaint hurled by Berberabe Jr. against Magtibay is the series of cattle rustling incidents in the province that has left cattle farmers in deeper debt as the cattle were mostly loaned from groups and individuals.

The provincial council has recorded at least 15 cases of still unsolved cattle rustling.

Only last month, two Batangas City police officers were found positive of drug use while another two were slapped with sexual harassment charges by a 17-year-old girl who was jailed at the city's detention cell along with her two male friends who were also minors.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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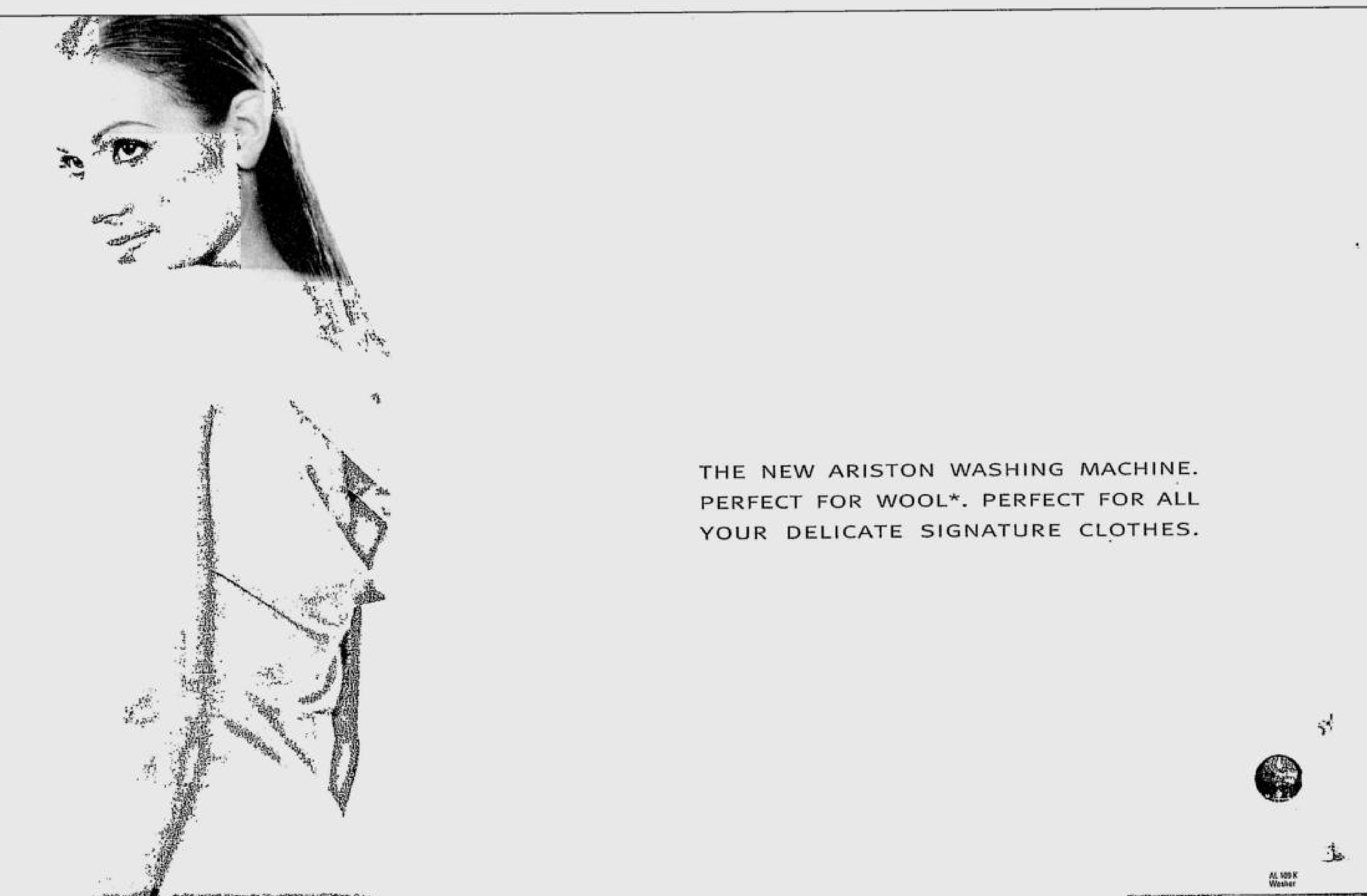
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Drug rehab center gives home, hope

By Tonette Orejas
Magalang, Pampanga

"MAS MALAKI pa sa Bundok Arayat (It's bigger than Mt. Arayat)," Mila says of her drug addiction problem.

Looming south of the Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center (CLDRC) in Barangay Sto. Niño in Magalang, Pampanga, where Mila and her husband Noli have lived in separate dormitories for the last five months, the 1,500-meter high amphitheater-like mountain stands like a giant obstacle course.

"How I hope I could reach the peak!" she says, adding that she may not have the stamina to scale the heights but she has the will to conquer her years of dependence on shabu.

"It numbed my mind. It helped me get away from poverty and depression. It became a habit until I realized it destroyed my health, my own family and our future," she says.

The CLDRC, Mila says, helped her and her husband get out of that rut. It was Noli who first submitted himself to rehabilitation, albeit grudgingly. A month later, she joined her. Their target was to live life anew and live for their three children, aged 5 to 12 years old.

From their village in Bulacan, the children, accompanied by their grandmother, visit their parents on Sundays.

"I looked forward to the day when I could rear them up myself, help them get education. No mother could be a good mother when she's hooked on drugs. I had a bad temper and ignored them most of the time," she says.

By early August, she and Noli will finish the six-month treatment. The 18-month after-care program, she thinks, would be more of a challenge because the psychologist, the priest, the police, the social welfare worker and even the very community she had struggled with to kick off the habit would not be around anymore.

"That would be more difficult. But we will try to overcome all difficulties for the sake of our children and for ourselves," she says.

Senior Supt. Conrado Briton, CLDRC executive director, believes that the success of the center is not about being only able to put up several facilities through *bayanihan* (cooperation).

"That we can instill hope, revive or strengthen their will to overcome drug addiction and inspire them to go forward is the greatest thing the staff here had done," Briton, 53, explains.

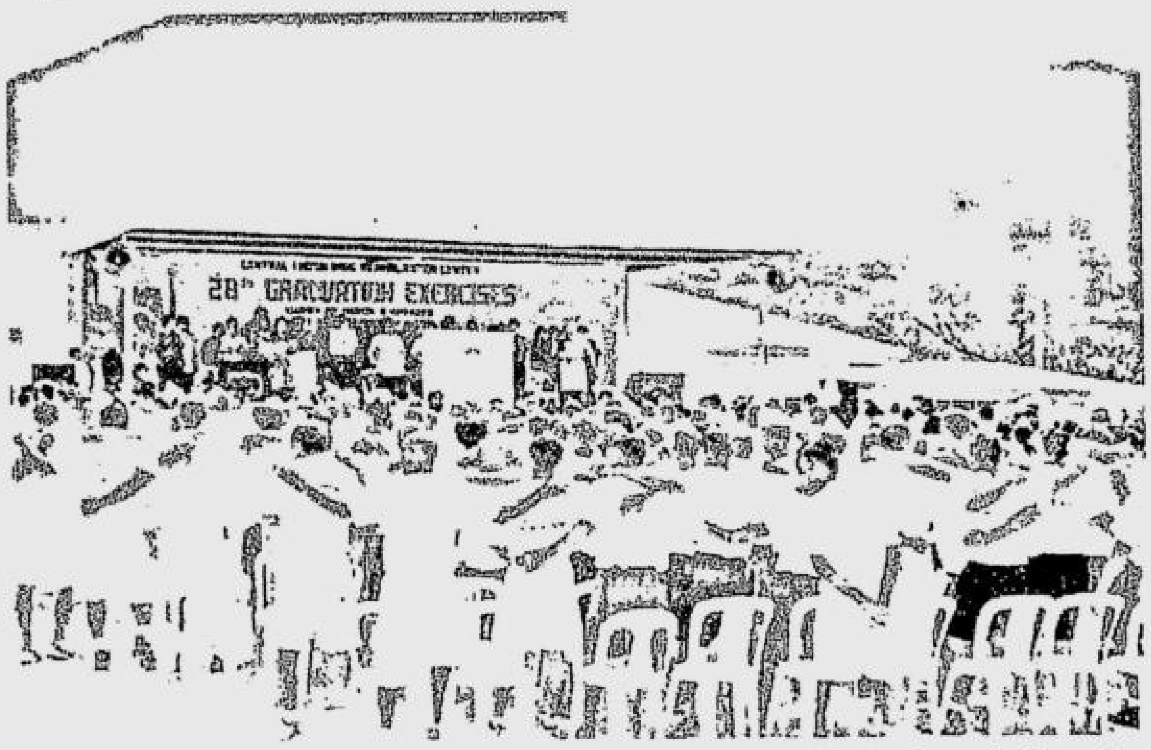
More than 3,000 "graduates" had gone through the center, touted to be the first and only center in Central Luzon. It opened on March 16, 2000 when Central Luzon ranked third among regions where the drug menace was most serious.

Chief Supt. Edgardo Aglipay, chief of the Philippine National Police anti-drug task force, said Central Luzon was the most problematic region this year because 859 of its 3,999 villages were drug-affected.

Southern Tagalog and Metro Manila come second and third, respectively, he said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. also announced the government's plan to construct more rehabilitation centers as one of the strategies in the renewed anti-drug campaign.

Because of the new trend and the fresh drive, the center, according to Briton, has more reasons to exist now.



DRUG addiction is like a mountain to conquer. The Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center, the first and only in the region, is located at the foothills of Mt. Arayat to remind perhaps that problems can be overcome.

Partnership

The center, according to Briton, shows that partnership does work. The Central Luzon police closely work with the Sagip Bie (Save Lives) Foundation to turn the idea into a reality.

"The police did not have money for this. We had only our labor to share," he recalls of the center's beginning. The PNP and the foundation, led by Arayat Mayor Benigno Espino, mobilized the initial resources, mostly construction materials, from private companies and individuals. Local government officials, especially Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz and congressional leaders, led by Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, are the center's regular patrons.

Starting with just one dormitory more than three years ago, the center now has six dormitories, an administration building, a staff house, a mess hall, a kitchen, and basketball and volleyball courts.

Changing for better

Like Mila, each one has a story to tell about the destruction that drug addiction brings. On their own, they help "newcomers" get into the process of changing for the better.

Many are married men between 25 and 30 years old. Patients from Bulacan and Pampanga, including Angeles City, always comprise the biggest number of wards. The others come from Tarlac, Zambales, Bataan, Olongapo City, Nueva Ecija and from as far as Manila, Laguna, La Union, Pangasinan, Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya and Abra.

Many come from poor families because only 40 percent of the patients could afford donating P2,500 monthly for meals.

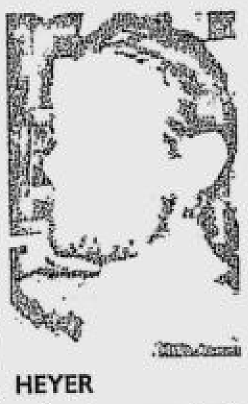
To Briton, the center also represents the "left-hand approach" of the PNP in curbing illegal drug trade and use. While buy-bust operations, raids and seizures cut the supply chain, the rehabilitation center tries to reduce the number of users to also eventually shrink the market for illegal substances, Briton says.

To the struggling couple Mila and Noli, the center is home and hope. "This place gives us a chance to change," they say.

Sagada's 'aklay' is a French baker

By Desiree Caluza
Sagada, Mt. Province

IN SAGADA, Mt. Province, there is an *aklay* (a tall, white man). And only one other "white man" has earned that title since the late historian and anthropologist William Henry Scott was nicknamed "Scotty" by residents out of respect for his contribution to the community.



HEYER

Phillipe Heyer, a resident of Sagada for three years now, has been called *aklay* for embracing the community as if it is his own.

Heyer, the rustic town's French baker, chose to settle in Sagada after traveling to 28 countries. In his working area at Barangay Nangonogan, he busies himself baking and cooking exotic dishes for the residents and visitors.

"Sagada is small enough to move easily around. Quiet, cheap, there is no nightlife. This place has a mystical touch in the air," he says.

Heyer also dabbles in poetry and literature. The inspiration that Sagada has given him enabled him to finish writing "Phil'ing Free" in 2001, a 300-page book that talks about his travels amid the background of food and culture that he encountered in various countries he had visited. He is now writing his second book, a cookbook titled "Ph'ood."

Heyer conducts cooking lessons for anyone interested in cooking and baking. He also shares his recipes with food critics who visit him.

After spending 23 years in France and obtaining a chef diploma in 1983, Heyer has never stopped exploring cuisine outside his culture. He traveled and learned the food, history and culture of other countries.

He decided that Sagada would be his "ultimate destination" when he fell in love with the town in 1998. "I was fed up working 15 hours a day for a good salary. It was okay, but I had a feeling I was not learning anymore, so I got to get out of France."

In 1992, Heyer loaded his Peugeot mountain bike with 30 kilograms of luggage, including 10 kg of spare parts and clothes, a stove, a sleeping bag, a camera and a radio, and embarked on a cross-country journey.

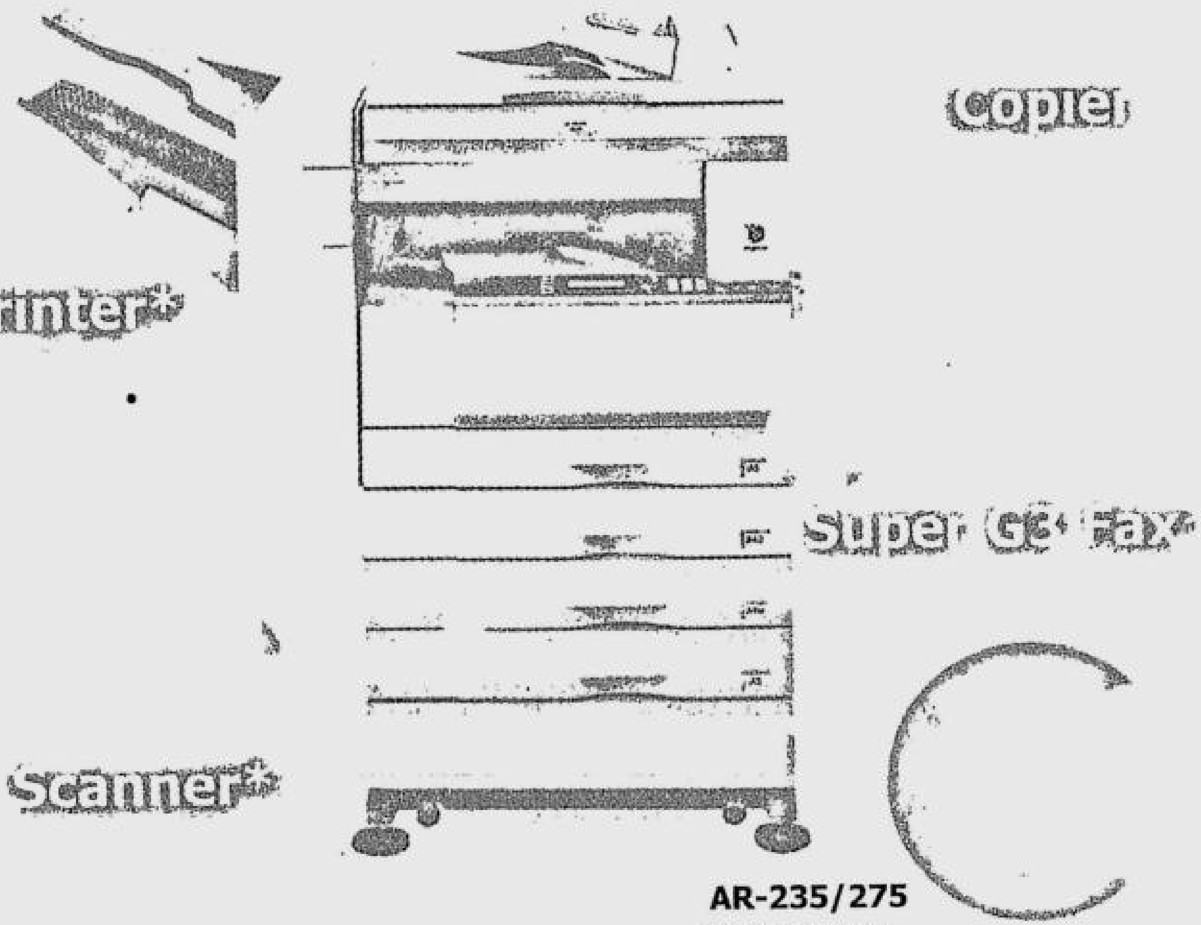
"I was going to discover that by traveling a long time, cross-country solo by bike, it was very easy for me to pick up various languages," Heyer says, explaining how he eventually learned to speak English.

"I'm a cook with 21 years of experiences in 27 countries, from being alone in the jungle without other supplies than those gathered in the (forest) to a one-year job as the personal pastry chef of the royal family of Brunei. My CV (curriculum vitae) is a shocking collection of experiences for Mr. Everybody," he says.

Starting September 1993, Heyer traveled on his mountain bike to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Iran and India, logging 12,000 kilometers. He also traveled to Pakistan and China by mountain bike across the Himalayas, and flew to Bangkok.

From Thailand, he went to Malaysia and Singapore. He went to the Philippines to visit Palawan. He worked in Palawan as a chef and got involved in environmental causes.

Heyer says he intends to stay in Sagada "for the rest of my life." He lives a simple life with Uncle Del-oy, the ham maker, who has been his housemate for more than a year now.



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How they could have escaped

From page A1

"Camp Crame is gaining notoriety for its very porous detention centers, and it is becoming hard to believe that these escapes of heinous criminals are the result of ordinary laxity," President Macapagal said in her first public statement on the incident.

"We must pin the culprits down and find a permanent solution to this problem."

Who helped?

Who helped them escape? Matillano didn't have the answer yet. But considering the tough security at the detention cells, he said that person could be anyone among five IG officers.

They are Supt. Carlito Natanawan, commander of the IG compound; Supt. Fritz Galban, chief of the IG's foreign intelligence liaison office; Insp. Jaime Dime, duty officer; SPO3 Ruperto Principe, sergeant of the guards; and PO1 Ronald Palmares, jail guard.

Natanawan and Galban were relieved yesterday, a day after Dime, Principe and Palmares were "confined" to their barracks, Matillano said.

Only Natanawan and Principe were supposed to have the keys to the two three-room detention cells, he noted.

Each detention cell on the second floor had three rooms.

Matillano said the jail guards had been made to undergo lie detection tests and fingerprints had already been lifted from the detention cells.

Escape version

Mark Bolkerin Gumbahale, alias Abu Tagalog, 22, was the first to learn about the escape when he woke up for his daily prayer at around 4:30 a.m., according to Matillano.

The prisoner was allegedly among the Abu Sayyaf bandits who kidnapped 21 people from Sipadan, Malaysia, in April 2000. He was arrested at the Maharlika Village in Taguig City last year.

Gumbahale was staying in one of the three rooms in one of the cells, Matillano said. In the other rooms were Al-Ghozi and Lasal, alias Mehran Abante, he said. Edris was in one of the three rooms in another cell.

According to Matillano, this was how Al-Ghozi, Edris and Lasal bolted jail:

From their cells on the second floor, the three walked downstairs toward the old building's main exit on the ground floor.

It was possible that they left the IG compound through the main gate, but it was more likely that they jumped off the fence on the right side of the compound from behind the gate.

Getaway car?

They managed to casually walk out of jail because the guard assigned to their cells left moments before the escape. There was also no guard detailed on the ground floor at that time.

Matillano could not tell how the fugitives got out of Camp Crame from the IG compound. "Most probably, there was a getaway car," he said. "We'll find out soon."

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, PNP chief, said he suspected that "money changed hands."

Al-Ghozi escaped just as Australian Prime Minister John Howard was visiting Manila to announce heightened counterterrorism cooperation.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said police were considering the possibility that "the escape was completed even earlier than yesterday morning and the timing (of the announcement) was precisely to embarrass the government and the administration" during the Howard trip.

He also said he suspected it was "an inside job and we are looking into all the possible connections of the people responsible for the escape," he said, without saying who might be behind such a plot.

Lina said administrative and criminal charges would be filed against those responsible for allowing Al-Ghozi to flee.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said there were no immediate reports of anyone being charged with connivance.

Backing of influential people

"This escape from right inside the PNP headquarters couldn't have happened without the involvement of influential elements within the PNP," said Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

He noted that it was impossible for an international terrorist like Al-Ghozi to be familiar with the surroundings outside the highly fortified detention facility of the IG headquarters.

Sen. Manuel Villar said he suspected that the escape was scripted, and had the backing of influential people. "I won't buy the idea that our policemen are that stupid (to let him escape easily)."

He claimed that an influential group in the Indonesian parliament had earlier asked for Al-Ghozi's release. "There is a possibility that this [escape] was [orchestrated] upon the request of our neighboring country [Indonesia]."

In Baguio City, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon on Tuesday said Malacañang must establish who in the PNP had ties to the suspected bomber, given the circumstances of the escape.

He said details of the incident already suggested that Al-Ghozi was "allowed" to flee on the very day of Howard's state visit to the Philippines.

Probe Matillano's group

Biazon said the investigation should focus on the CIDG officials. "They have their own kingdom inside Camp Crame—high walls, barbed wire, steel gates—and yet we hear repetitions of these escapes by high-profile convicts." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and AFP*

Al-Ghozi escape alarms US, Australia

From page A1

still likely to have the capacity to mount further terrorist attacks," he said, citing the fact that Al-Ghozi, Hambali, alleged JI operations chief, and Azahari Mohamed, alleged maker of the Bali bombs, are all at large.

US Embassy spokesperson Frank Jenista said Washington was "deeply disturbed by the escape because it raises the threat of terror for Filipinos or Americans, and for everybody here in the Philippines."

Ron Post, another US Embassy spokesperson, added: "These are murderers and they need to be captured and incarcerated as soon as possible."

Observers said the dismay of Manila's allies and neighbors was palpable, coming as it did amid increased antiterror cooperation shown by Indonesia, previously seen by Washington and Canberra as the only Southeast Asian nation not fully cooperating in the campaign.

Washington has identified Southeast Asia, with its large Muslim populations and decades-old insurgencies, as a possible refuge for al-Qaida militants who have been rooted out by the US-led invasion of Afghanistan following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

"It (Al-Ghozi's escape) is a big blow" to the global campaign against terrorism, conceded Roilo Golez, President Macapagal-Arroyo's national security adviser.

Bruce Gale, Singapore-based security analyst for Hill and Associates Risk Consultancy, described Al-Ghozi as one of the most senior and well-trained members of the JI network, said to be the Southeast Asian proxies of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

Gale said Al-Ghozi's escape raised concern because it followed an announcement by Indonesia last week that it had disrupted JI plans to mount a further series of bombings there, as well as plots of bombings elsewhere in Southeast Asia and Australia.

"For the moment, last week's arrest of seven JI operatives in Indonesia has probably undermined plans for a fresh wave of attacks. The questioning of these detainees should also provide new leads," Gale said, noting that one of those detained was supposedly in charge of operations in Malaysia.

"However, with Al-Ghozi now at large, together with other senior JI members such as Riduan Isamuddin (alias Hambali), the potential for fresh attacks around the region remains."

Howard said the situation "underlines the need to be more vigilant and to strengthen our institutional capacity to deal effectively with terrorists."

The Australian leader's trip, where he signed an antiterror pact with Manila, is part of Canberra's efforts to build an antiterror shield beyond her borders.

"We continue to receive reports of terrorist planning in the region, and I emphasize again the importance of improved cooperation" to meet the threat, he said.

"The ultimate success of our response to the terrorist threat will be measured by the degree to which our police and security agencies can effectively cooperate, because it is in that working level where the great gains can be made."

Howard's visit to the Philippines, where he held talks with President Macapagal, was highlighted by his announcement of an A$5-million security assistance package to Manila.

The Australian assistance package provides for the training of Filipino investigators on forensics and crime-scene investigation, a laboratory to detect document fraud, the strengthening of port security, and closer cooperation with Southeast Asian neighbors in law enforcement and border control.

Howard's eight-day Asian trip will also take him to Japan and South Korea for talks that he said would be dominated by security concerns like terrorism and transnational crime and the nuclear threat from the Korean peninsula. *Reports from AFP and AP*

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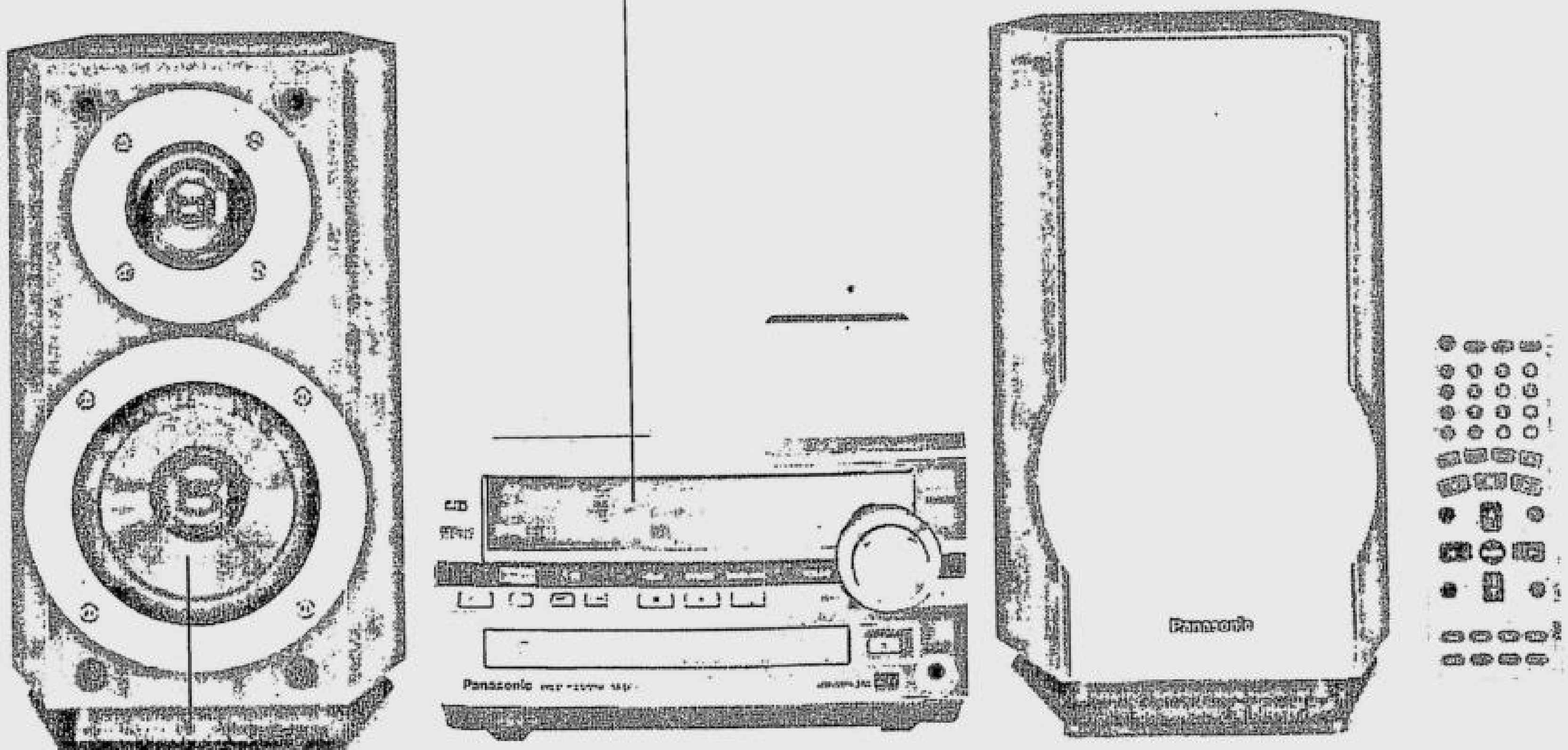

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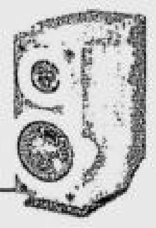

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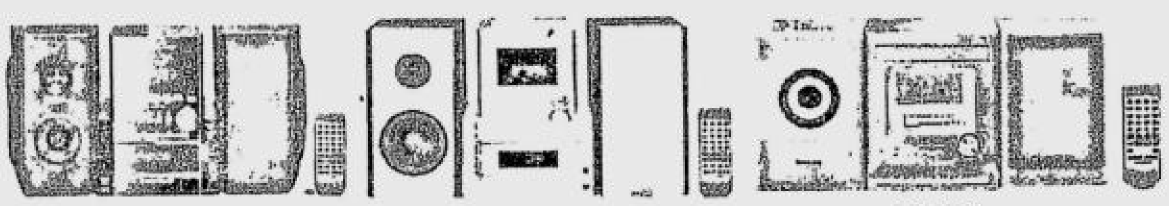

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1709, Series of 2003

Indonesia, Malaysia join hunt

From page A1

ists may be sent to the DILG's text no. 117, PNP's text no. 2940, his DILG office (Tel. No. 925-0320 to 24) or Ebdane's office (Tel. No. 723-0401).

"This is the saddest day for the PNP which has been scoring positively by busting criminal elements, especially drug syndicates," Lina said of the jailbreak which had embarrassed and infuriated President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ebdane said he had ordered the creation of Task Force Pugante to track down the fugitives. The task force is made up of select members of the PNP Intelligence Group under its new head, Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo, and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group under Director Eduardo Matillano.

Biggest manhunt

A "general alarm" has been raised by the military and other police forces as well as intelligence agencies to find Al-Ghozi, who had been convicted to 12 years in prison for illegal possession of explosives. He has also allegedly confessed his participation in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings that killed 22 people and wounded a hundred others in Metro Manila.

"This is probably the biggest manhunt in the Philippines so far, and maybe even in the region," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told reporters. "Indonesia and Malaysia have been alerted and there is a big manhunt already."

Edris and Lasal are likewise considered dangerous. Edris was among those indicted in the United States in connection with the kidnapping of tourists, including three Americans, in a Palawan resort in May 2001. Lasal, alias Merang Abante, was allegedly one of the kidnappers of American Jeffrey Schilling in 2000.

PNP sources said operatives had been fielded in various Muslim communities where Al-Ghozi, Edris and Lasal would most likely seek refuge before they attempt to make their way to Mindanao.

But Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said troops had been ordered to intercept the three fugitives should they try to make contact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao.

"We're gathering intelligence information on the possible escape routes such as airports, seaports, bus terminals in Mindanao," Lucero said.

"Our southern backdoor is very open. Anybody can just go in and out. Though we have joint border patrol operations with Malaysia or Indonesia, the area is too large relative to our capacity to monitor every incident in the area."

Lucero said the military was keeping a close watch on the island provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Jolo and Palawan, which enjoy a common sea border with Malaysia and which sea pirates have traditionally used to smuggle goods.

Al-Ghozi photos

Flights bound for Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia also were being strictly monitored, and Al-Ghozi's picture has been posted in all immigration counters.

"We're assuming that he (Al-Ghozi) is attempting to get out of the Philippines," Golez said.

Muhamad Muda, Malaysia's marine police chief, said security officials in Sabah state on Borneo Island, have been alerted about the escape of Al-Ghozi.

"Our maritime boys are on full alert. We have ordered strict checks on all boats and passengers that come into Malaysia. We do not want him to seek sanctuary in Malaysia. He is a dangerous militant," he told AFP.

Indonesian national police spokesperson Zainuri Lubis said similar efforts were under way, with nonofficial entry points in East Kalimantan (Borneo) and Sangir-Talaud islands near the Philippines being watched closely.

Jakarta was also prepared to cooperate with Manila to recapture Al-Ghozi, according to foreign ministry spokesperson Marty Natalegawa.

An Indonesian police officer said his men were on the alert in case Al-Ghozi attempted to reach his home town, Madiun in East Java.

"We have already been pro-active in watching out for the possibility of him returning to Madiun, and we will coordinate with Interpol," Heru Santo, police chief in East Java, told Indonesia's Antara news agency. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, AFP, AP and Reuters*

Ebdane refuses to resign . . .

From page A1

But he added that his fate was up to the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But first, he said he would attend to his duty.

"Kahit sila magkagutay-gutay basta't makikilala at maibabalik, (Even if they are shredded to pieces, if they are identified, they'll be brought back)", Ebdane said in ordering the PNP to go after the three suspected terrorists. *(Story on manhunt, Page A1.)*

"I cannot (resign) just because somebody told me to," Ebdane said. "I will be running away from the problem.

What was important, he said, was to find out "what happened, determine the motivation behind it, and punish specific personalities responsible (for the escape)."

'Outrageous'

In the Senate, outraged lawmakers demanded that Ebdane should resign his post if the three fugitives were not rearrested in 72 hours.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. dared Ebdane and the PNP top brass to "vindicate" themselves by immediately bringing back the three fugitives to the bar of justice.

"If the PNP cannot vindicate itself by rearresting Al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf suspects within 72 hours, the PNP chief must voluntarily submit his fate to the President under the principle of command responsibility," said Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security.

"It's not very reassuring for our people's safety and security, the way our law enforcers have become the laughingstock of the world because of this incident," said Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Drilon described the spectacular escape of Al-Ghozi as "outrageous" because the terrorists "are now free again to sow terror."

He admitted that there must be something "terribly wrong" with the law enforcers' handling of prisoners.

Not first time

"It's an outrage for someone as dangerous as Al-Ghozi to escape from the very headquarters of the PNP, and this is not the first time," said Drilon.

Drilon was referring to the escape of Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar and two others who bolted the Camp Crame jail shortly before Ebdane assumed office last year.

Then Ebdane was quick to blame "politics" within the PNP for the escape.

In 1995, Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani and his aide Jovenal Bruno escaped from the same cell where Al-Ghozi and the two others were detained.

Magsaysay pointed out that the public "is sick and tired of watching terrorist after terrorist escape the clutches of justice."

He described the mysterious escape of the three men from a supposedly tightly secured detention center as an act "as despicable as planting the bomb itself."

He was referring to the Dec. 30, 2000 bombing of the Light Rail Transit station which killed 22 people. Al-Ghozi had claimed responsibility for the bloody carnage.

Congressmen also want Ebdane out. Rep. Apolinario Lozada (5th District, Negros Occidental) said the PNP chief should be included in the planned top to bottom revamp of the PNP by the President because the incident occurred inside the PNP general headquarters in Camp Crame.

"I don't care whose head will roll. This incident is a big embarrassment to the country and the people. We showed the world how clumsy we handled terrorists and the security of the nation," said Lozada.

Lozada also chided Ebdane for urging the public in a press conference to shoot Al-Ghozi and the two other escapees on sight.

"Such pronouncement leaves a bad taste in the mouth. The public has no business in police pursuit. It is the job of the PNP and other police agencies to run after the escapees who are considered dangerous criminals," he stressed.

Lina, too

Rep. Abraham Mitra (2nd district, Palawan) went one notch higher to pinpoint responsibility for the escape.

He said Interior Secretary Jose Lina should also resign as a "point of honor," along with Ebdane.

"There is no hara-kiri in the country so the honorable thing left to do for these gentlemen is to resign," said Mitra.

By resigning, he said, Lina and Ebdane will spare the President the agony of deciding whether to terminate the services of his two trusted law enforcement men.

"They will also be able to walk out of their own steam and be spared the humiliation of being fired from office. If they would not tender their resignation, if they would not avail themselves of a graceful exit, the President must fire them, pronto!" Mitra added.

Rep. Augusto Syjuco said the President should get rid of corrupt police officials who collaborate with criminal elements, especially those under their custody.

He said the series of escapes had brought to naught the government's efforts against heinous crimes.

The latest escape prompted Syjuco to file a resolution asking the House committee on justice and public order and security to investigate, in aid of legislation, the latest escape.

House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said there was a need to speed up the passage of a proposed law that would impose stiffer penalties against erring jail guards. *With a report from Nelson Flores*

Miriam talks; oh, boy

From page A1

lightweight."

Sen. Noli de Castro is "incompetent."

Sen. Loren Legarda is "incompetent as well."

Sen. Juan Flavier is "a joke."

Sen. Gringo Honasan is "out."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson is "too young."

Raul Roco is "too ambitious."

Who's saying all these awful things?

Yes, she's back.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago—fiery Ilongga lawyer, former University of the Philippines law professor, regional trial court judge, immigration commissioner, agrarian reform secretary and senator—who would have been fearless president of the Philippines, if she had her way, or ruthless host of "The Weakest Link," Philippine edition, if conditions at the opportune time had been more favorable.

During an interview at her West Triangle, Quezon City law office over the weekend, this reporter asked Santiago to describe the personalities reportedly seeking either the presidency or vice presidency in next year's polls.

Quick on the draw

Known for spewing venom at lesser mortals in her book, Santiago did ask to "pass" at first: "When I say 'pass,' that means I don't have anything good to say and I don't want to be accused of trying to destroy people."

But once she got started, it was clear she had not mellowed. Still candid and quick on the draw, and with a tongue as sharp as ever, she minced no words in attacking the subject(s).

Santiago said ABC-CBN talent De Castro, Social Weather Station's survey topnotcher, was "incompetent" as a public official and "shouldn't be there (in the Senate)." Asked why she was throwing Legarda in the same league, she simply said, "(She's) a news reader."

When she described Lacson as "too young," Santiago said, what she meant was, "he lacks background for the presidency."

As for former Education Secretary and ex-Sen. Raul Roco, she punctuated "too ambitious" with, "*Sobra* (too much)!"

Did she mean Flavier was a "joker?" No, a "joke" was exactly how she wanted to put it. "He keeps on joking. There's a time to be humorous, but (with him) everything is treated facetiously."

Exactly how "out" was Honasan? Santiago was merciless: "The country has said goodbye to him ... he's fallen off the computer screen. He's not in the radar anymore. Maybe someone has to tell him."

The "lightweight" Guingona did not have *elan vital*, she waxed acerbic. "That's the French term for life force, the creative principle, the fundamental reality. It's like he's so ... ephemeral." That was another English word for fleeting, momentary and short-lived.

With Ms Macapagal, Santiago stopped at "self-indulgent."

The former opposition legislator is a staunch ally of Joseph Estrada's, but the deposed President's closest friend and best bet, actor Fernando Poe Jr., was not treated any better than De Castro and Legarda: "Incompetent."

She didn't have to, but Santiago explained: "I call incompetent anyone in the entertainment industry—all of them in the movies, television, radio, print, theater and sports. This is not personal to them. It's simply that in my view they are not qualified for public office. They have no business being in public office."

She was "perfectly willing to consider that they might be good entertainers and good people," she said. "But they should not be in government service because government service is very, very demanding. It demands a lot."

Obviously, this was something she felt passionately about.

"It is a legitimate ambition in a democracy for anybody to run for public office. But not everything legal is moral. (Just because) you're qualified for public office does not mean you should run for public office. You should first assess what you have to offer. So I would like to ask this question to these entertainers as a whole so that you will see that I have no personal animosity. What do they have to offer? If they have entertainment to offer, that is a legitimate service to society as well. To entertain people is a service."

Just when it seemed least likely, Santiago paused, possibly remembering a famous friend in detention: "There can be an exception once in a while but I don't see any exception (right now)."

Was there anyone at all that deserved her second look, at least? Surprisingly, there was, and for this one she turned awe-ful.

For Danding

She would vote for, not just consider, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Santiago said. "He is very tough-minded ... a very strong leader."

Cojuangco's "habit of asking for people's opinion" appealed to her, she said. "He goes out of his way to break out of his cordon sanitaire, if he has one. He has a very hard-headed view of his wealth and the power it brings him. And he is constantly struggling to make sure that his wealth does not work against him. It attracts a lot of sycophants, as you know, and people whose opinion can be rented. I think he goes out of his way to guard against that. That is a very good sign that he is very, very authoritarian in his ways."

Santiago stressed that a leader should have "at least the minimum academic qualification. She said she was willing to overlook the fact that "Danding," did not finish college, because a university degree could be substituted with "native intelligence."

Best of all, the usually uncompromising Santiago said, Cojuangco had what she called "the power to inspire," something that "a leader first and foremost should fundamentally and basically have."

She could not have emphasized this more, and no one, absolutely and indubitably, could have said it better.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Three (3) Britten Norman Islander-2A Fixed Wing Aircraft** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Seventy Two Million Pesos (Php 72,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, or otherwise produce BN Islander, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **July 16, 2003** until **August 5, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 7,200.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 5, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than seven (7) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BN Islander Aircraft and Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **August 19, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

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Marcoses forfeit P36 billion

From page A1

while Justices Leonardo Quisumbing and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez were on official leave.

"There is no doubt in our mind that respondent Marcoses admitted ownership of the Swiss deposits," said the decision penned by Associate Justice Renato C. Corona.

The tribunal ruled that the total amount of the Swiss deposits was considerably out of proportion to the known lawful income of the Marcoses.

Front foundations

The ill-gotten funds were initially deposited in Swiss banks through five "front" foundations -- Azio-Verso-Vibur Foundation; Xandy-Wintrop; Charis-Scolari-Valamo-Spinus-Avertina Foundation; Trinidad-Rayby-Palmy Foundation; Rosalys-Aguamina Foundation; and Maler Foundation.

The Supreme Court noted that government records showed that Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos' lawful salaries from the time they took power in 1966 up to the time they were ousted in February 1986 amounted to only $304,372.

"Petitioner Republic (the government) presented not only a schedule indicating the lawful income of the Marcos spouses during their incumbency but also evidence that they had huge deposits beyond such lawful income in Swiss banks under the names of five different foundations," the court said.

"We believe petitioner was able to establish the prima facie presumption that the assets and properties acquired by the Marcoses were manifestly and patently disproportionate to their aggregate salaries as public officials," it said.

"Otherwise stated, petitioner presented enough evidence to convince us that the Marcoses had dollar deposits amounting to US$356 million representing the balance of the Swiss accounts of the five foundations, an amount, way way beyond their aggregate income of only US$304,372.43 during their incumbency as government officials," the high court added.

It pointed out that Mrs. Marcos claimed the funds were lawfully acquired but she failed to give specific details of how the funds were supposedly acquired legally.

The high court also said that the Marcoses judicially admitted that they owned the accounts in their various pleadings and in the General and Supplemental Agreements they entered into with government for the settlement of cases against them.

For example, Mrs. Marcos told the Sandiganbayan on May 26, 1998 that she was the sole beneficiary of 90 percent of the funds in escrow.

"The admission of respondent Imelda Marcos only confirmed what was already generally known: that the foundations were established precisely to hide the money stolen by the Marcos spouses from petitioner Republic. It negated whatever illusion there was, if any, that the foreign foundations owned even a nominal part of the assets in question," the court said.

The Supreme Court said the Marcos children's denial could not be rightfully accepted as a defense because they were Mr. Marcos' legal heirs and were therefore bound by his acts.

"Mere denials, if unaccompanied by any fact, which will be inadmissible in evidence at a hearing, are not sufficient to raise genuine issues of fact and will not defeat a motion for summary judgement ... By qualifying their acquisition of the Swiss bank deposits as lawful, respondents unwittingly admitted their ownership thereof," the court said.

PCGG motion

The case began in December 1991 when the Presidential Commission on Good Government asked the Sandiganbayan to declare the $356 million (now worth $682 million) as ill-gotten wealth after it identified the five "front" foundations.

The PCGG had obtained a decision from the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, which upheld the ruling of the Zurich District Attorney, that the money belonged to the Philippines "with conditionalities" and granted its request for the transfer of the funds to the Philippines.

The seized Marcos assets were transferred to the escrow accounts established by the PNB in 1998 to avoid the dissipation of the funds.

The PNB invested the money in London, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong and the United States as part of the escrow agreement with the PCGG. One condition set by Swiss authorities was for the money to be invested in a bank rated "AA" by Standard & Poor's. The "AA" rating means that "nothing could go wrong with the investment. The funds are deposited abroad as none of the local banks, including the Bangko sentral ng Pilipinas, have an "AA" rating from S & P's.

After the money was deposited in escrow in the PNB, the PCGG moved for summary judgement on the ground that the Marcoses' pleadings did not present any "genuine issue."

The Sandiganbayan initially granted the government's motion but later reversed itself because there was no authenticated trans lation of the decisions of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court. The government appealed to the Supreme Court, which agreed to take the case.

"At the outset, we would like to stress that we are treating this case as an exception to the general rule governing petitions for certiorari . . . where the case is undeniably ingrained with immense public interest, public policy and deep historical repercussions, certiorari is allowed notwithstanding the existence and availability of the remedy of appeal," the court said.

Only general denials

The Supreme Court then ruled that the case was ripe for summary judgement because respondents Mrs. Marcos and her children Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marco-Manotoc, Irene Marcos-Araneta, and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. failed to raise any genuine issue of fact in their pleadings.

"In the various annexes to the petition for forfeiture, petitioner Republic attached sworn statements of witnesses who had personal knowledge of the Marcoses' participation in the illegal acquisition of funds deposited in the Swiss accounts under the names of five groups or foundations. These sworn statements substantiated the ill-gotten nature of the Swiss bank deposits," the tribunal said.

"In their answer and other subsequent pleadings, however, the Marcoses merely made general denials of the allegations against them without stating facts admissible in evidence at the hearing, thereby failing to raise any genuine issue of fact," it added.

No need for trial

The high court said that under these circumstances, a trial "would have served no purpose at all" since there were no sworn affidavits from the Marcos' side contradicting the government's witnesses.

"Time and again, the Court has encountered cases like this which are either only half-heartedly defended or, if the semblance of a defense is interposed at all, it is only to delay disposition and gain time. It is certainly not in the interest of justice to allow respondent Marcoses to avail (themselves) of the appellate remedies accorded by the Rules of Court to litigants in good faith, to the prejudice of the Republic and ultimately of the Filipino people," the tribunal said.

The Supreme Court noted that the Marcoses instead offered "foxy responses" like "lack of sufficient knowledge or lack of privity" or "they cannot recall because it happened a long time ago" or, as to Mrs. Marcos, "the funds were lawfully acquired."

Decision ...

From page A1

wealth during their 20-year rule.

"This is not politics. This is justice," said another PCGG commissioner, Ruben Carranza. Even if the Filipino people had to wait for 17 years, "justice can be achieved," he said.

Human rights victims of the Marcos regime also welcomed the ruling as they expressed the hope that Congress pass a bill that would provide them with compensation.

"There can be no more excuses for further delaying measures intended to utilize a portion of the forfeited escrow account for the victims," said the Public Interest Law Center, counsel of the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainess Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda), a group of human rights victims.

President Macapagal said the Supreme Court decision was a "milestone in the people's decades-long pursuit of justice."

"The decision is likewise a welcome development for millions of landless farmers, since the law mandates that a big part of the ill-gotten funds should be used for land reform," the President said in a statement read by her deputy spokesperson Ricardo Saludo.

The agrarian reform law says all recovered ill-gotten wealth should go to land distribution.

"This is a step forward since we filed the claim when I was in the PCGG," Jovito Salonga, the first PCGG chair, said of the high court ruling.

"There were no human rights claimants at that time yet. This is a victory for the government. I hope the human rights victims could avail themselves of the funds through legislation," Salonga said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said there was hope for the victims getting something. " We have filed a bill in Congress for 30 percent of the recovered ill-gotten wealth to go to the victims of human rights violation during the Marcos era," he said.

"So this is a welcome development. Had the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Marcoses it would be difficult to run after the money and the victims would be left with nothing," Ocampo said.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, founding chair of Claimants 1081, another group of human rights victims, said the Macapagal administration "if it wants to, can undertake steps to ensure that the right to compensation of the victims is protected."

Bill for rights victims

One measure, according to Rosales, is for Ms Macapagal to issue an executive order that will define appropriate mechanisms for the compensation of the victims.

Another is for the President to certify a bill, which is principally sponsored by Rosales, that seeks to provide human rights victims with $200 million in compensation.

Rosales said the bill was up for second reading in the House of Representatives. "President Macapagal is very very supportive of the claimants," she said.

There had been previous discussions regarding a $200 million settlement with the Marcos estate. The claimants earlier won a $1.9-billion suit against the Marcos estate before a Hawaii court.

Rosales said she would have wanted the bill passed before the high tribunal issued its decision. "But we can still work for its passage so that once the Supreme Court's decision achieves finality, there is already a law on the claim," she said.

Salonga noted that the bill had been successfully blocked by Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Salonga said the government must go after the other ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses. "This (escrow account) is not enough. In March 1988, Mrs. Imelda Marcos admitted that there was more wealth than the government was aware of."

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the high court decision would not have a direct impact on economic growth but could help spur meaningful activity if some of the proceeds would be used to finance crucial infrastructure or services. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Clarissa S. Batino*

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Victory Declaration

Coco Farmers vs. Cojuangco

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We, the small coconut farmers and allied non-government organizations, have firmly stood our ground and have been relentless in pushing our claim over the coco levy. We have been waiting in agony for the overdue ruling, but it was worth it. Finally, the Sandiganbayan ruling on the coco levy ownership has granted us victory in our 17-year struggle with Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. More importantly, the ruling has allowed justice to prevail.

With the Sandiganbayan ruling, we have proven our claim that that the coco levy funds are public funds and are clearly owned by the government and the small coconut farmers. The ruling has also exposed Cojuangco's deception of the public regarding the ownership of the coco levy funds.

We owe this victory, in part, to the relentless efforts of the Philippine Commission on Good Government under the leadership of Chairperson Haydee Yorac, who remained firm in supporting our position that the coco levy funds were illegally obtained from the small coconut farmers.

With the Sandiganbayan ruling, Cojuangco and his appointed directors at the San Miguel Corporation (SMC), the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), and other companies that were also purchased through the coco levy, no longer have any right or reason to hold on to their posts.

We now demand the following:

- Cojuangco and his appointed directors should immediately resign from SMC, UCPB and coco levy purchased companies. They no longer have the moral and legal authority to manage publicly owned companies or entities.
- Appropriate criminal charges should be filed against Cojuangco and others involved in the coco levy scam. They should be held accountable for the injustices that they committed.
- Government should immediately establish a caretaker committee with strong farmer participation that would manage the judicious use and disposition of the funds so that these could immediately benefit our ranks.

We are also strongly proposing that government take immediate steps to redirect the funds for the development of the coconut industry and the small coconut farmers. This should be done as soon as possible because we are currently suffering from untold economic hardships.

Sobra na, tama na! DI NA KAMI PAPAYAG na maulit pa ang ganitong di makatarungang gawain at karumaldumal na panlilinlang! TULOY ANG LABAN!

Liga Magniniyog Officers and Council of Leaders

Luisita Z. Esmao, Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA), *President* ¤ Amparo D. Robles, Kalayaan Philippine Revival Foundation, Incorporated (KALAYAAN), *Vice-President/Secretary-General* ¤ Nestor A. Llamas (SCFO-Camarines Sur) ¤ Ceferino R. Rivera Sr., LUZVIMINDA Economic Development Foundation, Inc.¤ Ruben M. Castroverde (BUKLOD-Aurora), Proceso Cornejo, Sakdalista Federated Advisory Organization of the Philippines, Inc. (SAKDALISTA) ¤ Severino Aguilar, Laguna Coalition ¤ Nonito Clemente, Nagkakaisang Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (NIUGAN) ¤ Vicente Fabe, Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) ¤ Leopoldo Flores, Calipayan Research and Development Foundation (CARED Foundation) ¤ Datu Solaiman Malambut, Southern Philippines Rural Workers Association (SPRWA) ¤ Hadji Ulama Nilong, Mindanaw Rural Congress (MRC) ¤ Edgardo Lopez, Liga Magniniyog, Davao Oriental ¤ Erlinda Albaira, Rural Urban Missionaries of Mindanao-Western Mindanao (RUM-WM) ¤ Alberto Ada, KOPRAS-Samar ¤ Sonny Mancol, Kapas-an Inc./ Liga Western Visayas ¤ Catalino Ordinario, Jr., Small Coconut Farmers Organization-Bohol (SCFO-Bohol) ¤ Herminio La Viña, Southern Leyte Liga Chapter¤ Eddie Mendoza, Makabayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (MAKABAYAN-PILIPINAS) ¤ Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (AMA) ¤ Francisca Morada (PKSK)

Provincial and Regional Small Coconut Farmers' Organizations/Cooperatives

Agusan Sur Liga Chapter ¤ KABILIN, Inc. ¤ Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) ¤ Mamanwa Manobo Tribal Council, Inc.***Compostela Valley*** Liga Chapter ¤ Compostela Valley Federation of Free Farmers Cooperative ¤ ***Davao Norte*** Davao Free Farmers Cooperative ¤ Davao Resources Development Coop ¤ ***Davao City*** Liga Chapter ¤ SCFO-Davao City ¤ BMFI-DS ¤ Small Coconut Farmers Foundation of Davao ¤ SCFO Federation ¤ Matabog Integrated Enterprises Development Cooperative (MIEDECO) ¤ Mindanaw Rural Congress Council (MRC) ¤ ***Davao Oriental*** Liga Chapter¤ Davao Muslim Coop ¤ Provincial Cooperative Union of Davao Oriental (PCU-DO)¤ ***Sultan Kudarat*** DEMASKU ¤ Sultan Kudarat Federation of Free Farmers Cooperative ¤ Sultan Kudarat Small Coco Farmers ¤ ***North Cotabato*** Bayanihan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Kutabato (BMK) ¤ ***Maguindanao*** Mamalo Descendants Organization ¤ North Cotabato Tribal Council of Elders, Inc. ***Surigao del Sur*** Liga Chapter¤ Tago Center for Sustainable Agriculture Inc. (TCSAI) ¤ Shalom Multi-Purpose Cooperative ¤ ***South Cotabato*** Liga Chapter ¤ Southern Mindanao Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives (SMFACI) ¤ Small Coconut Farmers Organization ¤ ***Saranggani*** Small Coconut Farmers Organization ¤ **Zamboanga Sur** Liga Chapter¤ Moro Farmers Association in Zamboanga del Sur (MOFAZS) ¤ Association of Coconut Farmers in Zamboanga del Sur (ACOFAZS) ¤ Kaugpungan Gagmay Mag-uuma sa Kagawasan (KGMP) ¤ Small Coconut Farmers Organization-Zamboanga del Sur ¤ ***Zamboanga del Norte*** Liga Chapter ¤ SVARVEMCO ¤ Union of Subanen Tribal Community in Mindanao ¤ Zamboanga Sibuguey Phedsalabuhan Guhum Subanen de Sibugay ¤ Kalibugan Council of Elders ¤ Zamboanga Alliance of Small Coconut Farmers Association ¤ LOGCCO ¤ ***Misamis Occidental*** Liga Chapter ¤ Combined Organization of Coco in Oroquietta (Coco-Oroquietta) ¤ Misamis Occidental Cooperative ¤ Misamis Occidental Small Coconut Farmers ¤ ***Lanao Norte*** ARC-PEMPCO ¤ Higa-on Federation Tribal Council, Inc. ¤ ***Bukidnon*** Bukidnon MPC ¤ Higa-on Federation Tribal Council, Inc. ¤ San Isidro Farmers Association (SIFA) ¤ Subanen Pagampungan Community Development Center of the Philippines ¤ Subanen Tribe Tobo-Hai USHBE ZANFESSI ¤ ***Negros Occidental*** Paghiliusa sa Magagmay Nga Manoglubi ¤ PKMM (Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magsasaka (Negros) ***Negros Oriental*** Ayungon SCFO Federation ¤ Bais City SCFO Federation ¤ Bayawan SCFO Federation ¤ Guihulngan SCFO Federation ¤ Manjuyod SCFO Federation ¤ Pamplona SCFO Federation ¤ San Jose SCFO Federation ¤ Siaton SCFO Federation ¤ Sta. Catalia SCFO Federation ¤ Valencia SCFO Federation ¤ Zamboanguita SCFO Federation ¤ Bacong Small Coconut Farmers Dev't. Cooperative (BASCOFADCO) ¤ Don Esperidion Villegas Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries MPC ¤ Manghulyawon Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries MPC ¤ Matobato Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (MARBA) ¤ MANANAPAZ, Inc. ¤ Negros Oriental League of Coconut Farmers MPC ¤ Orient Marketing Cooperative (ORMACO) ¤ San Miguel Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries MPC (SMARBEMPUCO) ¤ Sibulan Coconut Farmers & Community Cooperative (SICOFACCO)Southern Negros Rural and Agricultural Workers Association ¤ Ulay Small Farmers MPC (ULASFARMPUCO) ¤ ***Siquijor*** Provincial Coconut Farmers MPC ¤ Provincial Cooperative of Small Coconut Farmers of Siquijor(PROCOCO) ¤ SCFO Federation ¤ ***Biliran*** Pasaley ***Bohol*** Bol-anon League of Coconut Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative ¤ SCFO ¤ Calape Copra Marketing & MPC ¤ Ubal Small Coconut Farmers Association ¤ Association of Small Coocnut Farmer-Jagna ¤ Bohol Integrated Farming Association (BIFA) ¤ ***Cebu*** Lamitak Farmers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (LANFABA) ¤ League of Small Coconut Farmers ¤ Porro Pilar Farmers MPC ¤ Borbon MPC ¤ Sibonga Small Farmers MPC ¤ Visayas Management and Consultancy (VIMCON) ¤ ***Leyte Sur*** Coconut Farmers Multi-Purpose Coop of Southern Leyte ¤ CASAMA MPC ¤ Cadarohan MPC ¤ Jabay MPC ¤ ***Leyte*** Agro Reforma ¤ Mahaplag MPC ¤ Association of Concerned Individuals for Development ¤ ***Western Samar*** Konpederasyon han mga Organisado Paraglubihan Samar (KOPRAS) ¤ TANDAYA Foundation, Inc. ¤ ***Northern Samar*** Peasant Alliance of Samar & Leyte (PASALEY) ¤ Balicuatro Coconut Producers Development Cooperative (BCPDC) ¤ ***Eastern Samar*** Liga Chapter ¤ ***Aklan*** Developers Foundation ¤ Pederasyon ng mga Mamamayan na Nagkakaisa sa (PAMANA) ¤ Tabon Farmers Association ¤ MMPC ¤ PAKISAMA ¤ ***Antique*** Liga Chapter ¤ Katin-aran sang Parangabuhian sang sur Antique (Kapas-an Inc.) Antique ¤ Katin-aran Pangabuhi-an sa Antique ¤ Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan (PKSK) ¤ ***Negros Occidental*** Liga Chapter ¤ Paghilusa sg Magagmay nga Manoglubi (PMM) ¤ Northern Negros Coconut Farmers and Farm Workers Association ¤ SCFO Federation ¤ Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magsasaka (PKMM) ¤ ***Capiz*** SCFO Federation ¤ PAKISAMA ¤ ***Camarines Sur*** Liga Chapter ¤ ***Marinduque*** Liga Chapter ¤ ***Batangas*** Liga Chapter ¤ Alyansa ng Magsasaka ng Kanlurang Batangas (AMKB) ¤ Batangas Center for Community Empowerment and Development (BCCED) ***Quezon*** Liga Chapter ¤ NIUGAN ¤ Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon (UGMA) ¤ Makabayan ¤ Kapitbahay Development Foundation ¤ SCFO ¤ Quezon Coconut Development Council ¤ Tan-Ag Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Lopez, Quezon ***Aurora*** Liga Chapter ¤ KAISA-MO ¤ Buklod ¤ Luntian Alyansa ng Bundok Banahaw (LABB) ¤ Kaakbay ¤ Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kanlurang Tayabas, Inc. (SAMAKATA, Inc.) ¤ BUKLOD ¤ PSCFO ¤ Samahan ng mga Settler sa San Luis Aurora (SASESLA) ¤ San Luis Small Coconut Farmers Association (SASCOFA) ¤ SAMANI ¤ Kalipunan ng mga Magsasaka sa Aurora (KAMAKA) ¤ Nagkakaisang Magsasaka sa Kanayunan ng Aurora(NAMAKA) ¤ KABALIKAT ¤ DKMP/PARAGOS ¤ **Fisherfolk Organizations:** Progresibong Alyansa ng mga Mangingisda (PANGISDA) ¤ Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Unisan Quezon (SMMUQ) ¤ Malayang Mangingisda para Magpaunlad ng Yaman sa Nayon (MAMAMAYAN-PAKISAMA) ¤Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM) ¤ Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda (SAMAMA-AMA)¤ Kapatiran ng Malayang Maliliit na Mangingisda¤ Samahan ng Mangingisda sa Tanay ¤ AADC ¤ GIOS-Samar ¤ PRONET ¤ VISNET ¤ GGL ¤ **Non-Government Organizations:** Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) ¤ Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) ¤ TAMBUYOG Development Center ¤ United Inventors Association ¤ People's Movement for Empowerment and Development (People's MEND) ¤ Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan (KAISAHAN)

ADVT.

Our skies. Our patrimony.

BY OCTOBER 1 this year, our skies may no longer be ours.

TODAY (July 16), crucial air negotiations between the Philippines and the United States are taking place right here in Manila – sans the participation of any Philippine aviation industry representative or employee and without the knowledge of the Philippine public. The hush-hush air talks are focused on the fuller implementation of the RP-US Air Transport Agreement (ATA) of 1982, which seeks to impose a total "open skies" policy on the Philippines. If the RP negotiators (all government officials) succumb to the US pressure and those lobbying for American interests such as the US-funded AGILE and Freedom to Fly Coalition, the American airlines and carriers shall lord over the Philippine skies beginning October 1, 2003.

Like the Philippine islands and the seas around them, our skies are part of our national patrimony. The Chicago international air convention expressly recognizes the 'complete and exclusive sovereignty' of every State 'over the airspace above its territory'. As such, nations of the world zealously guard their air spaces and exert efforts to maximize job and economic gains from the uses of these air spaces through the development of their respective domestic aviation and ancillary industries and by forging fair and balanced air agreements with other countries on the basis of their development requirements. In countries where the domestic airline industries are faltering, governments (such as those in Malaysia, New Zealand, France and more notably, the United States) do not hesitate to come in to provide assistance or even to take over to insure the viability of their air industries and protect their skies against predatory foreign poaching.

Sadly, the unbridled 'open skies' policy reflected in the RP-US ATA is neither fair nor balanced for the local aviation industry in particular and the national economy in general. One blatant source of unfairness in the RP-US ATA is the access to each other's air space and aviation market. Under the agreement, the US is given unlimited traffic rights to any point within the RP and through the Philippines (called in the airline parlance as 3rd to 5th freedoms). This means they can pick up traffic anywhere in the Philippines as well as from the Philippines to the neighboring countries and vice versa provided the 3rd country also allows them to, e.g. Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Thailand, etc. On the other hand, the RP is limited to only 9 gateways or entry points (from which, they may branch out to 16 other points) but without rights to pick up traffic between two US points which are very much far apart. And worse, we are allowed to pick up traffic from America to only 5 beyond points in either South America or Europe, both of which are long haul and have very limited commercial implications for the Philippines.

Thus, while the so-called open-skies arrangement harps on equal rules and equal access, the reality is that there is inequality. The unlimited access to the Philippine aviation market and the opportunity to pick up traffic between the Philippines and neighboring countries are huge commercial bonuses to the ailing American carriers. On the other hand, the Philippine air carriers, which are given limited access to the American aviation market and equally limited access to the highly saturated US-Latin America and US-Europe routes, will face eroded markets right within their home territory, courtesy of the open-skies arrangement under the RP-US ATA.

To be more precise, the US air carriers can readily fly the 3,000 plus overseas Filipino workers leaving and coming into the country daily and connect them anywhere outside the country through their global air networks. On the other hand, under the same agreement, the Philippine air carriers have to compete head to head with the American air carriers right within the domestic Philippine aviation market and yet cannot match the reach of the American air carriers within the American aviation market because the Philippines is limited to only a few destinations that are far apart!

In brief, the air right sharing agreement under the RP-US ATA is very similar to the WTO's equality rules involving unequal partners; eight years after the WTO's formation, global studies such as those made by the UNDP indicate that the so-called WTO's equality rules have only deepened inequality in global trade and development, precisely because the equality rules are being applied 'equally' to heavyweights and flyweights fighting in the same boxing arena. To complicate matters, the heavyweights enjoy fabulous subsidies such as the $15 billion which the US government allocated to the American air industry after September 11, 2001 and the $80 billion US Farm income assistance approved last year, which would make American farmers much more stronger compared to Third World farmers like the Benguet vegetable growers.

NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED during the Marcos era, the RP-US ATA has not been implemented fully, partly because of some objections from the Philippine side. However, there have been persistent efforts on the American side to push for total liberalization of air traffic between the two countries, with the US-funded AGILE and FFC undertaking a noisy open-skies campaign.In reality, unknown to the public, there has already been a partial and one-sided liberalization, in the air cargo market. In 1995, as part of the frenzied trade liberalization program of the Ramos administration, the air cargo market was opened and this was immediately targeted for domination by the US giants – FedEx, UPS and DHL. The US cargo carriers operate out of Clark and Subic, with their aircrafts flying virtually without limitations to all points in Asia and key cities of the Philippines, putting at a great disadvantage the local cargo handlers and forwarders and encroaching into the cargo, parcel and mail business of the Philippine Postal Corporation and the private Filipino courier companies such as LBC Air and JRS. In fact, FedEx and UPS have deployed in Clark and Subic a fleet of smaller aircraft, including Russian cargo planes, to be able to penetrate as many developing markets in Asia, in clear violation of the 1982 open-sky agreement. How many jobs have these carriers created and how many jobs – and businesses – have been lost by the local cargo, parcel, mail and courier companies?

By October this year, per schedule of implementation of the ATA and if there are no radical revisions of the agreement, there will be "open skies" between the two countries – but as pointed out, open mainly on the Philippine side. And if the US would have its way, they also want same country and 3rd country code-sharing to complete the process of opening up the Philippine aviation market, that is, to give the American air carriers operational flexibility in partnership with American carriers not designated on the RP routes or even foreign carriers to the detriment of the RP aviation industry.

WHY IS THE US so bent in cornering unlimited rights over Philippine skies?

The answer is not difficult to find – the US airline industry is in a survival mode. Despite the huge subsidies it is getting from their government, the US airline industry has not been able to recover from the 9/11 incident and the fear of terrorist attacks on US nationals, after the US attack and occupation of Iraq and its belligerence on other nations. That is why it is now in search for other market opportunities to poach upon. The Philippine market, consisting of a steady traffic of OFWs and balikbayans, more than 3,000 of whom are coming from and departing daily to various countries is a market which the US cannot simply pass.

In the meantime, what opportunities does an "open skies" policy provide to the otherwise struggling Philippine airline and aviation industry? Competing with the giant and heavily subsidized American airlines in the US market is out of the question. Philippine carriers will also have to fly very long routes within the US as compared to the very short routes that US airplanes will travel to pick up passengers within the Philippines.

Like other countries which entered into "open skies" agreements with the US whose airline carriers went bankrupt, the Philippine airline and aviation industry is bound to crash if the ATA is fully implemented. That an "open skies" policy will promote competition among local airline industries to be at par with the giant US airlines is a myth. It will only result in cutthroat competition. That "open skies" will boost tourism is another illusion.

There are at present 12 million airline seats available per year, but only 6.2 million of these are utilized, including two million tourists, which is the average number of tourist arrivals in the country for the last three years. In Asia, countries attracting the largest volumes of tourists such as China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand do not have any open skies agreement with the US or any other country.

With the likely collapse of the local aviation industry, tens of thousands of jobs will be lost, like what happened earlier in other domestic industries that were subjected to unbridled liberalization. Also to be affected are thousands more in the tourism and travel industries, hotels and restaurants, resorts and leisure-oriented establishments, and many others whose operations and survival are dependent on the airline and aviation industry.

WHILE THE PATRIMONY of our country is at stake and the future of the local aviation industry may be compromised in RP-US ATA negotiations today, the parties that shall be directly affected by the agreement – namely the local carriers and their workers – have been kept out of the negotiations. They were shut off from the RP aviation negotiating panel by virtue of Executive Order No. 32, which limited the panel representation to only government representatives. Neither were consultations made with the industry sectors and stakeholders. Is a grand sell-off of our skies in the offing?

It should be made clear that per consultations conducted by the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), industry sectors and other stakeholders are not completely averse towards the idea of liberalization. However, what FTA and its industry partners are pushing for is a "calibrated and step-by-step liberalization" of the industry, a liberalization process supportive of the modernization and expansion of the domestic aviation and ancillary industries, not a sweeping and mindless liberalization, much less surrender of our options and national interest. This is what most countries in the world are doing.

In this regard, we call for the following:

1. **Renegotiation of the RP-US ATA to correct its onerous provisions;**
2. **A halt on the implementation of the "open skies" policy until after consultations are made with all stakeholders of the aviation industry to determine whether the right conditions exist which could allow our country to benefit from such a policy;**
3. **Crafting of an Omnibus Philippine Aviation Industry Development Plan to promote the development of the industry, with the participation of all its stakeholders; and**
4. **Amend Executive Order No. 32 to restore the representation of all stakeholders of the industry, including the workers, in all negotiations and agreements concerning the local aviation and airline industry.**

Fair trade, not free trade!

Fair skies, not open skies!

Names	Organizations
Ka Bobby Tañada	**FAIR TRADE ALLIANCE**
Rep. Del de Guzman	Marikina City
Dr. Rene Ofreneo	
Manuel Quiambao	Philippine Ecumenical Action For Community Empowerment (PEACE) Foundation
Antonio Garcia	CHEMPHIL, Inc.
Isagani Serrano	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
Romulo Tapayan	Kalipunan Ng Mga Maliit Na Magniniyog Sa Pilipinas (KAMMPIL)
Raul Segovia	Citizen's Alliance For Consumers Protection (CACP)
Freddie De Leon	Philippine Rubber Industry Association
Joel Gaudia	Samahan Ng Magsasapatos Sa Pilipinas (SMP)
	OTHER POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS
Gina De La Cruz	ALAB KATIPUNAN
Ildefenso Silva	
Primo Amparo	MAKABAYAN
Robert Joseph Lim	Save Our Skies Foundation

Names	Organizations
	ALL LABOR FOR FAIR SKIES
Atty. Ernesto Arellano	National Federation of Labor-National Confederation of Labor
Atty. Edcel Lagman	Lakas at Gabay ng Manggagawang Nagkakaisa (Lagman Federation)
Freddie Anicete	
Tony Brenches	Confederated Labor Unions of the Philippines (CLUP)
Ka Leto Villar	Association of Genuine Labor Organization (AGLO)
Antonio Policarpio	Lakas Manggagawa Labor Center (LMLC)
Dave Diwa	National Labor Union (NLU)
Alexander Barrientos	Philippine Airlines Employees Association (PALEA)
Mike Pacres	Katipunan ng Kristong Manggagawa, Inc. (KKMI)
Esmer Navarro	Duty Free Philippines Employees Union
Carlito Rallistan	Association of Democratic Labor Organization
Angel Mendoza	Association of Philippine Workers Solidarity Links (APSWL)
Atty. Bayani Diwa	
Pete Pinlac	PLDT Union-MKP
Jerbert Briola	PhilRights
Jun Agan	MIASCOR Workers Union-NLU
Wilfredo de la Cruz	National Federation of Unions (NAFLU)

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NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS Tel. Nos. 438-4539 to 40, 633-2545 to 47, 635-5888, 634-6754
NISSAN GALLERY QUEZON AVENUE Tel Nos. 731-5308, 711-6486, 711-6485
NISSAN NORTH EDSA (Balintawak) Tel. Nos. 330-5331 to 50, 455-6974 to 79, 362-1731, 455-8983
NISSAN U.N. AVENUE Tel. Nos. 400-1020, 400-2177, 400-1522, 526-9064 loc. 126
CORE AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES (CAR), Inc. Tel. Nos. 818-9464, 892-6242, 893-9221, 810-0151 to 55 local 315
MANTRADE DEV'T CORP. Tel. Nos. 843-3316 to 23, 812-7701, 812-7743,843-8011
NISSAN WESTGATE Tel. Nos. 775-0523, 775-0236, 775-0239
NISSAN ALABANG Tel. Nos. 873-2845, 873-2771, 8732770, 873-2860

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NISSAN PAMPANGA Tel. Nos. (045) 961-5461 to 62, 961-5481, 860-2164 to 65
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BUTUAN Tel. Nos. (085) 815-3164, 342-7210
DAVAO UNICAR CORP. Tel. Nos. (082)221-1918, 227-6712, 221-1914 to 17, 227-0310 to 11
GENERAL SANTOS Tel. No. (083)552-3228

LTFRB junks fare hike

By Abigail L. Ho

THE FILIPINO people are burdened enough.

With that, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) yesterday junked the P1.50 fare hike being asked by four jeepney associations.

In a six-page order, LTFRB chair Dante Lantin said increasing jeepney fare at this time would certainly have a "domino effect" on everything related to transportation, including wages and the prices of commodities.

Lantin added, "[This] Board is not insensitive to problems currently faced by the transport operators and drivers. But these problems are being addressed by the government," he said.

"If the problems confronting transport operators can be addressed without adjusting fares, this Board will not resort to the remedy of raising fares," Lantin stressed.

The fare hike petitioned by four of the country's biggest transport groups had sought to raise the minimum fare from P4.00 to P5.50.

Echiverri: Malonzo is lying

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

"A POLITICAL ploy to discredit me."

This was how Rep. Enrico Echiverri described yesterday the allegation that his police escort tried to kill Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo last Saturday.

Although he earlier told the INQUIRER he was not taking the issue seriously, he told reporters that Malonzo was "lying."

Malonzo had filed administrative charges against P01 Mocel Quilinguen, the police escort of Echiverri who, he claimed, tried to shoot him in a party last Saturday.

"(Malonzo) did not like the warm welcome I got from the residents who were at (Coun. Gualberto Bacolod's) birthday party," Echiverri told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Echiverri, who admitted he is considering running for Caloocan mayor next year, said Malonzo was grooming Gigi Emnace, Malonzo's common-law wife, to be the next mayor.

Malonzo, for his part, told the INQUIRER yesterday he had already expected Echiverri's camp to "add political color" to the charges he had filed.

"It's fine with me if that is how they perceive it. But as a city mayor, I have to act because I was disrespected," he said.

Malonzo was irked by allegations that he was drunk when the incident happened.

SIX DIGIT
3 7 4 2 4 5

SUERTRES (In exact order)
1 6 1

6/42 Luzon
1 5 18 30 31 42

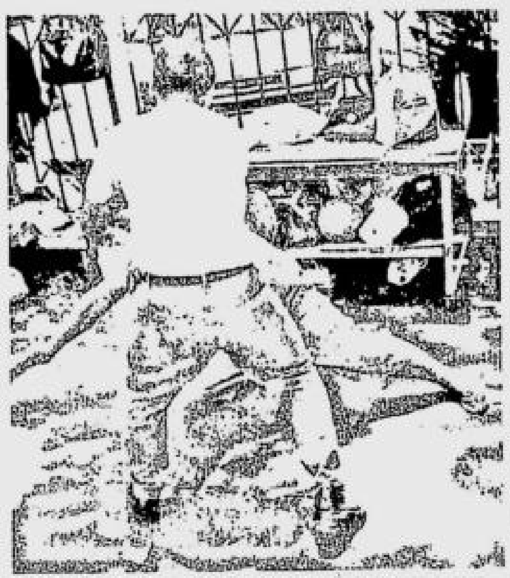
Vis-Min
3 10 11 20 36 41

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

FIGHT OVER A ROAD SEAT


A seaman slugs it out with an ambulant vendor on a sidewalk on T. M. Kalaw Street.

On his knees and down and out, the vendor waits for the next blow.

The seaman cannot be stopped from pummeling the vendor.

This street fight yesterday is over a space to sit on for seamen waiting for employment from shipping firms in the area. ERIK ARAZAS

Survivor says killer looked like her dad

By Tina Santos

"HE LOOKED like my papa."

This was how Giljean Mabulac, the 13-year-old lone survivor in last Monday's stabbing incident in Baesa, Quezon City, described the person who attacked her and three members of her family.

But Giljean also could not believe that it could actually be her father, Gil Sr., who stabbed her and killed her brothers Paul, 10, and Gil Jr., 2.

"Hindi yon magagawa ni papa sa amin. Mahal na mahal n'ya kami (He could not do that to us. He loves us very much)," Giljean told INQUIRER at the Quezon City General Hospital, where she remains confined and under observation.

Giljean, a 1st year high school student at the San Jose High School in Quezon City, said she was sleeping on a bed beside Gil Jr. when she was awakened by the cries of her brothers.

She tried to see what was happening but someone pressed a pillow on her face.

The girl remembered struggling to get free and seeing the face of her attacker.

"Basta kamukha ni papa, lalo na nung biglang tumalikod. Pero 'di rin ako sigurado (He just looked like my father especially when he turned around. But I'm not sure)," she said.

The girl confirmed that prior to the incident, Gil Sr. was depressed and showed signs that he had wanted to end his life amid rumors that his wife, Gina, was having an affair with his nephew, Edwin Abalos.

Abalos is a prime suspect after scribbling on the floor of the victim's house said, *"Si Kuya Edwin ang pumatay sa tatay ko* (Kuya Edwin killed my father)."

It was earlier believed that it was Giljean who did the scribbling on the floor but the girl said she did not.

Abalos, who has denied knowledge of the killing, earlier surrendered "to clear his name."

Strollers' 'nightmare'

Police claim ordeal just made up by complainant

By Leila B. Salaverria

SHE SAID it started out as a leisurely stroll with friends but it ended as a harrowing nightmare in the hands of policemen in Manila Friday night.

But the police say that the "nightmare" is all in the mind of the complainant, Corazon C. Sono, 44, of Velasquez, Tondo.

In her complaint before the Western Police District General Assignment Section, Sono accused P02 Gilbeys Navoa, P01 Fernan de Jesus and P01 Paul Roma of illegal arrest, arbitrary detention and grave coercion.

Sono said she was walking in Tondo with four friends at about 8:00 p.m. when the lawmen apprehended them and brought them to the Police Community Precinct (PCP) 1 in Smokey Mountain.

On the way to the station, the three lawmen allegedly took her two bracelets worth P6,000.

At the precinct, Sono said Roma ordered her to take off her clothes in full view of everybody inside the police station.

She was then locked up without any charges filed against her. Meanwhile, her friends allegedly had to bribe their way to freedom.

Sono claimed that one of her companions, Alfredo Malto, was mauled and forced to perform oral sex on the other detainees.

PCP 1 director Insp. Danilo Gomez admitted that they had invited Sono and her friends for questioning but denied her allegations.

He described Sono as a known drug pusher in their area.

In his denial, Gomez said they could present witnesses who would disprove Sono's allegations against his men.

He explained that it would be impossible for his men to make Sono undress and for her companion to have been forced to perform oral sex on detainees because the detachment was very small.

NBI execs end row

IT TOOK Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida to settle the infighting at the National Bureau of Investigation over the recent reshuffle of several deputy directors of the NBI.

"There is unity in the family. All's well that ends well," Calida said after emerging from a lunch meeting with NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and Deputy Directors Samuel Ong, Fermin Nasol and Filomeno Bautista.

Ong and Nasol had led a rally in front of the NBI offices on Monday to protest their transfer to another department.

Leila B. Salaverria

METROBRIEFS

2 convicts escape

INMATES Arnold Puda and Mark Anthony Pascua escaped from the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa last Sunday. Both are facing robbery charges. Police said prison guard William Corpuz had sent Puda and Pascua to work on a house being constructed in the area at 8:00 a.m. last Sunday. Corpuz left the convicts and returned at about 6:30 p.m. and found the inmates missing. NBP officials are still conducting an investigation, but would file the appropriate charges against Corpuz. Authorities are hunting down Puda and Pascua. *Alcuin Papa*

Harassed by 'frat'

FERNANDO "Dong" Nana, 22, and a 16-year-old boy were arrested on Monday in Makati after they allegedly forced 11 high school students to join their fraternity. The victims, students of Makati High School and Pio del Pilar High School who are all in their teens, claimed the suspects also coerced them to smoke and drink liquor. PO1 Evangeline Babor of the Makati City Police Women's and Children's Protection Unit said that about 3 p.m. on Monday, the victims were hanging out in an eatery in front of their school when the 16-year-old suspect approached them and invited them to a "birthday party." The victims said that when they reached the suspects' home, Nana immediately forced them to join the Youth Rapid Mind fraternity, threatening to maul them if they refused to join. They said Nana had also forced them to give him their allowance. The victims' parents reported to the police that the suspects have been harassing their children. Police arrested the suspects while they were having a drinking session with the victims. Seven of the victims have given their statements to police. Babor said Nana would be charged with violating RA 7610 or the Anti-Child Abuse Law.

Margaux Ortiz

Killed in his sleep

LEVI Dislate was killed in his sleep allegedly by his friend Gicky Guadia, 23, with whom the victim had a falling out. SP02 Virgo Villareal said Dislate and Guadia had a heated argument last Monday, but colleagues had stopped the fight. While Dislate was sleeping in his quarters in the warehouse where he worked, Guadia allegedly climbed into his bed and stabbed him. Dislate was rushed to a hospital, but police said he could have died on the way after losing so much blood. Guadia escaped after the killing, police said.

Leila Salaverria

Clearing on video

STARTING this week, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will be videotaping its clearing operations as a precaution against "a repeat" of the recent Baclaran incident, said MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno. He said videotaping the operations would be a good way to protect both the vendors and the MMDA men. Without clear evidence, anybody could just blame the MMDA or the vendors for the violence during operations, Nacianceno said. He said the MMDA would be getting one or two people from the Traffic Operations Center, the Office of the Chair or the Office of the General Manager to videotape future operations.

Margaux Ortiz

Raid in Quiapo

THOUSANDS of pirated CDs, VCDs and DVDs were seized during a raid yesterday of makeshift stalls near the Muslim area in Quiapo, Manila, by agents of the Videogram and Regulatory Board. The area, which was usually teeming with vendors, was yesterday empty of the hawkers' stalls. But residents in the area said that despite numerous raids there, the vendors always returned to peddle their bogus products.

Leila Salaverria

Rotary fights drugs

THE ROTARY Club of Metro SFDM has joined the fight against drugs by combining forces with DrugCheck Philippines to solve the drug problem in the club's adoptive barangay. RC-Metro SFDM president Rey Mendoza said his club and DrugCheck would be conducting drug tests among the barangay officials and watchmen of Barangay Nayong Kanluran on West Avenue, Quezon City. RC-Metro SFDM will also be building street urinals in the community for the use of pedicab drivers.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Phase 2 Upgrade of One (1) BO-105C Helicopter**, of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Thirty Three Million and Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 33,600,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, or otherwise produce the BO-105C helicopter, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 16, 2003** until **August 7, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty Pesos (Php 3,360.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 7, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than seven (7) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BO-105C helicopter and the Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

The deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **August 26, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

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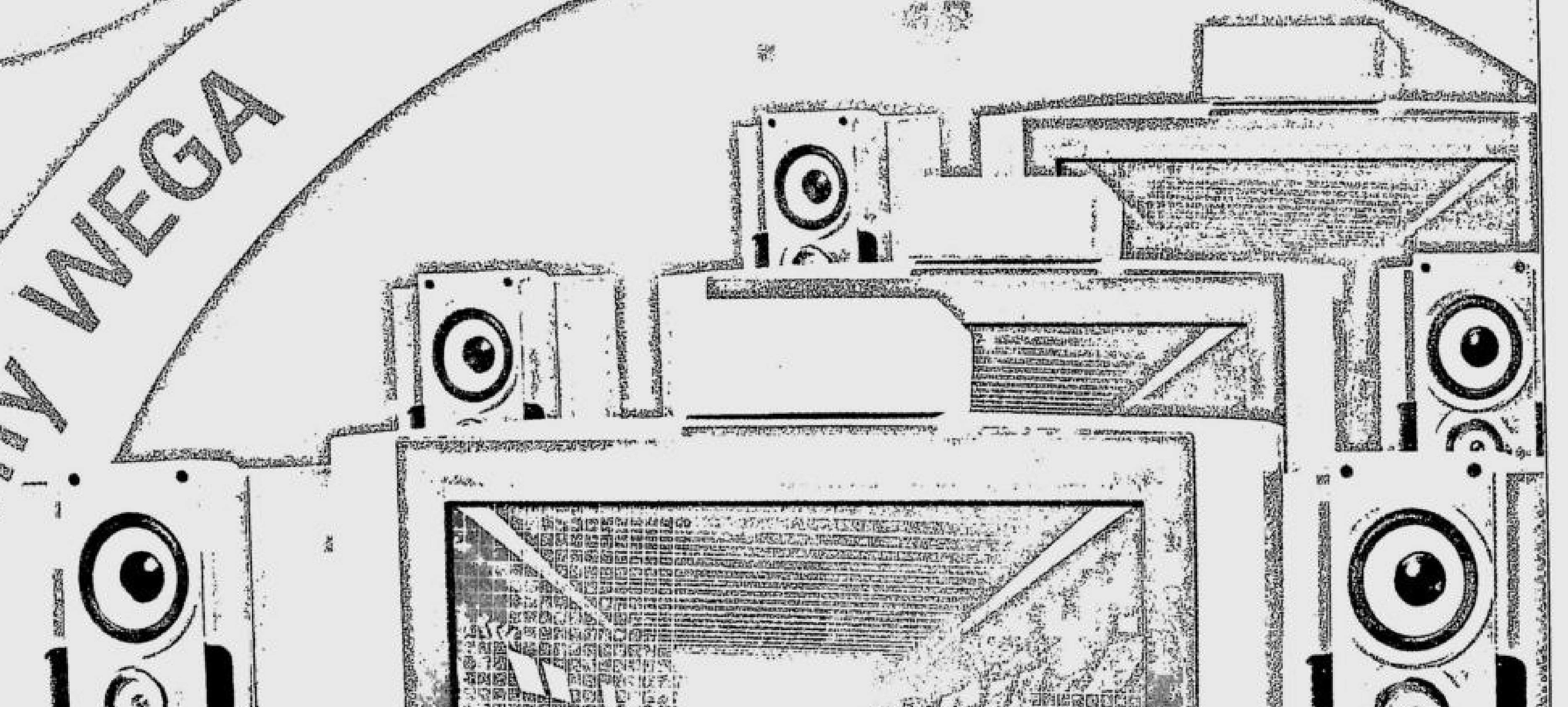

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Bata, 7 other RP bets gain

REYES cleans up in Group 4.

By Roy Luarca

ALL but one of the nine Filipino entries are assured of vying in the money round of the 2003 World 9-Ball Pool Championship at the Cardiff International Arena in Cardiff, Wales.

After Day 3 of the eliminations, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Marlon Manalo kept their immaculate slates even as compatriots Ramil Gallego, Dennis Orcullo, Antonio Lining, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Lee Van Corteza and Warren Kiamco also made it to the 64-man main draw set Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

Only US-based Filipino qualifier Ronnie Alcano is on the verge of being booted out. The 31-year-old Alcano, who was born in Calamba, Laguna, bowed to Roxton Chapman (4-5) and John Horsfall (3-5) Monday night and fell to 1-4.

Hall-of-Famer Reyes, flashing the form that made him the 1999 world champion, bested Radoslav Babica, 5-3, to boost his record to 5-0 in Group 4 where Alcano is also playing.

Manalo, the 2000 Asian snooker champion from Mandaluyong City, defeated Puerto Rico's Alan Rolon (5-0) and Canada's Jeff Kennedy (5-4) to match Reyes' record in Group 5.

With 4-1 records were Bustamante in Group 2, Gallego (Group 9), Corteza (Group 10), Orcullo (Group 14) and Lining (Group 16).

Philippine billiards godfather Putch Puyat, chief of Puyat Sports, said the Filipinos are on the right track for another good showing in Cardiff.

Bustamante, last year's runner-up to American Earl Strickland, downed Po-cheng Kuo (5-3) but got derailed by Evgeny Stalev (1-5).

Gallego disposed off Konstantin Stepanov (5-3), Corteza mastered Young-Hwa Jeong (5-1), Orcullo bowed to Marcus Chamat (4-5) and Lining tripped Marc Holtz (5-2).

Kiamco yielded to Malta's Tony Drago (4-5), but hurdled Germany's Christian Reimering (5-4) to raise his mark to 4-2 in Group 9.

Canadian Alex Pagulayan, who also traces his roots to the Philippines, stayed unbeaten with a 6-0 record in Group 11.

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AGAINST LUCERO

Prudent Pacquiao changes strategy

By Recah Trinidad

PACQUIAO

LOS ANGELES, California—Not the least worried about excess poundage, but extra wary about his opponent's punching power.

Manny Pacquiao yesterday swore he was only two pounds over the 122-lb limit for the July 26 defense of his International Boxing Federation super bantamweight crown at the Grand Olympic Auditorium here, then divulged fight plans after rejoining trainer Freddie Roach who has just returned from Europe.

It was the first link-up between the two at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood since Pacquiao left Manila on July 1.

Pacquiao said he now has an exact idea what type of challenger he's facing in the unbeaten Emmanuel Lucero, the Mexican-born World Boxing Council Continental Americas 122-lb champ who was raised in the Bronx, New York.

He said Lucero is a hard hitter who can also move well around the ring: *"Malakas at magalaw rin po sa ring."*

This means he would have to deviate from his famous raging-bull start, Pacquiao said.

After studying with his handlers Lucero's fight tapes, Pacquiao summed up his forthcoming strategy in three words: jab, straight, uppercut.

He also said he would try to fight at a distance—*"labanan ko sa labas"*—and use the ring.

No blind, devil-may-care jump-start, but it goes without saying that the lone reigning Filipino world boxing champion would look for an early opening, try to land a big one, then go for the kill.

After all, Pacquiao is aware that Lucero is not unshakeable.

Records showed that last year alone, Lucero had to pick himself up twice from the canvas in the early rounds before he finally outpointed Frankie Archuleta.

Lucero, 24, holds a 21-0-1 slate with 12 knockouts.

Pacquiao, 24, is 36-2-1 with 27 knockouts.

Pacquiao is making the fourth defense of the crown he took from Lehlo Ledwaba in June 2001 after a shaky, non-title outing at the Luneta on March 15, where he lost his mouthpiece and was knocked down by Serik Yeshmangbelov, whom he stopped in the fifth round.

But the champ is laboring at his hardest in preparation for his defense at the Grand Olympic where no Filipino has ever won a world title fight.

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'NC' battle at the top

STANDINGS	W	L
Mapua	3	1
Letran	3	1
JRU	3	1
SSC-R	2	2
Perpetual	2	2
San Beda	2	2
PCU	1	3
St. Benilde	0	4

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—SSC-R vs Mapua (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (srs/jrs)

MAPUA seeks to sustain its winning form when the league-leading Cardinals tackle defending champion San Sebastian College today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Cardinals of coach Horacio Lim have bounced back from a stunning loss to Jose Rizal University by stringing up two wins that installed them at the top of the standings.

Although they share the same record with the Heavy Bombers and the Letran Knights at 3-1, the Cardinals have shown unparalleled intensity in their past two games against PCU and UPHR.

Mapua and SSC, which lost to Letran, 73-64, Monday, take to the court at 2 p.m.

The Knights and the Heavy Bombers, fresh from stirring victories over the Stags and the St. Benilde Blazers, respectively, on Monday, part ways in the other senior game at 4 p.m.

Letran coach Louie Alas has done a good job of motivating his wards as shown by the heads-up play of Ronjay Enrile, Frederick Rodriguez, Jonathan Aldave, Jonathan Pinera and Mark Fedelicio.

ALASKA and Purefoods renew their league rivalry in the second game. The Hotdogs are on the brink of elimination with two losses. ROMY HOMILLADA

Alaska, Sta. Lucia try to stay in front

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
5 p.m.—Shell vs SLR
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	1	0
Alaska	1	0
Ginebra	1	1
Shell	1	1
Purefoods	0	2

STA. Lucia Realty and Alaska Milk try to stay on top of the heap as they battle Shell and Purefoods, respectively, today in the Samsung Mabuhay Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Sta. Lucia meets Shell at 5 p.m., while Alaska tackles Purefoods at 7:30 p.m. in this single round robin tournament being held to determine the sixth and final qualifier to the Asian Invitationals starting July 27.

The Realtors and the Aces sport identical 1-0 win-loss slates.

Already assured of berths in the Asian Invitationals are Red Bull, Coca Cola, San Miguel Beer, FedEx and Talk 'N Text.

The team with the best record will make it to the Asian Invitationals, which will pit three tough foreign teams and the national training pool against the six PBA squads.

Powerhouse China heads track entries

WORLD power China heads 25 countries which have confirmed their participation in the 2003 Manila Asian Athletics Association championships slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Memorial track and field stadium.

Out to defend their titles in 10 events, the Chinese will be sending the biggest delegation of 70 athletes and officials in their bid to retain overall supremacy in the annual event.

Javelin thrower Li Rongxiang, the defending champion and Busan Asian Games gold medalist, will banner the Chinese team. He will be joined by fellow Asian Games titlists Gu Yuan (hammer throw) and Gao Shuying (polevault), who are also defending their titles in the championships.

Expected to provide stiff challenge to the Chinese are the Qatari and the Korean contingents. Qatar will be led by three long-distance runners who won their events in the 2002 edition held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. *Roy Luarca*

TEAM PDI's Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Judy Go in action. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Divers superior shuttlers

DIVE Shoppe, composed of recreational divers, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) scored contrasting victories at the start of the first Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton tournament Monday night at the Yellow Feather Badminton Center in Libis.

Dive Shoppe outclassed the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 4-1, behind the efforts of Teng Dayan and Alma Bringas (ladies doubles 35 years and above), Dave Santos and Glenn Molino (men's doubles 35 and above), Gina Flores and Jhona Magnaye (ladies doubles under-35) and Jingle Chan and Jeh Gloria (men's doubles under-35).

"This is our first big tournament and we hope to do well here in the eliminations and make it to the quarterfinals," said Dive Shoppe coach Ronald Magnaye, whose players honed their skills at the Aguinaldo Badminton Club.

ADB nipped Crossover-HSBC, 3-2, on the crucial win by Dennis Pascual and Jagey Nave over Mac Saldue and Mike Tolentino in the men's doubles under-35, in this tournament co-presented by Dunlop Slazenger. and which has Quantum Global, Robson-Sportscraft, Ultramax, Lino's Food and Entertainment and Ratsky's as major sponsors.

Other opening day winners in the weeklong tournament were Procter and Gamble Alpha which beat Procter and Gamble Beta, 4-1; Richard Ellis, 4-1 winner over Asian Development Bank; Bingo Bonanza, 4-1 victor over Philippine National Bank; and Nokia which ripped Dupont Pioneer, 4-1.

Lance survives scary ride, keeps Tour lead

SPANISH rider Joseba Beloki grimaces in pain after the crash. REUTERS

GAP, France—Lance Armstrong survived his biggest scare since winning his first Tour de France in 1999 when his leading rival, Spaniard Joseba Beloki, crashed in front of him near the end of the 184.5-km ninth stage to Gap.

The American's bid to win a record-equalling fifth Tour was nearly ruined when Beloki, runner-up last year and second in this year's race, lost control after his tire blew on the melted tarmac surface.

Armstrong was forced to swerve past the stricken ONCE team leader and into a dusty field before crossing a ditch and rejoining the race.

Beloki, in obvious distress, was helped by teammates before being taken to hospital in an ambulance.

Tour doctors later confirmed that he had broken his right leg near the hip and also sustained wrist and elbow fractures.

"I had never been that scared. Real panic. In a moment like that, it's only a reflex of survival," said the Texan.

The American, who survived cancer to win the first of his four Tours in 1999, kept his overall lead.

But Kazakh Alexandre Vinokourov, who won the stage in Gap after breaking away on the last of the day's four climbs is now hot on his heels.

Vinokourov, winner of the Tour of Switzerland, is now only 21 seconds behind Armstrong going into the 219-kilometer 10th stage to Marseille.

"It's really magnificent. I really wanted to win a stage. That day has come," said the Kazakh.

Vinokourov won his first Tour stage in just over five hours. He was followed home, 36 seconds later, by Italian champion Paolo Bettini and Spaniard Iban Mayo, winner in l'Alpe d'Huez on Sunday. Armstrong sprinted to finish fourth. Reuters

I'm innocent, says Bryant

LOS ANGELES—Speaking publicly for the first time since he was accused of sexual assault, Kobe Bryant denied the allegations and said he "would never do something like that."

"When everything comes clean, it will all be fine, you'll see," Bryant, 24, told the Los Angeles Times in a story published Sunday.

The five-time NBA All-Star would not discuss details of the case, the newspaper said.

"I shouldn't have to say anything. You know I would never do something like that," the Los Angeles Lakers star said in the brief telephone interview.

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AGAINST LUCERO

Prudent Pacquiao changes strategy

By Recah Trinidad

PACQUIAO

LOS ANGELES, California—Not the least worried about excess poundage, but extra wary about his opponent's punching power.

Manny Pacquiao yesterday swore he was only two pounds over the 122-lb limit for the July 26 defense of his International Boxing Federation super bantamweight crown at the Grand Olympic Auditorium here, then divulged fight plans after rejoining trainer Freddie Roach who has just returned from Europe.

It was the first link-up between the two at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood since Pacquiao left Manila on July 1.

Pacquiao said he now has an exact idea what type of challenger he's facing in the unbeaten Emmanuel Lucero, the Mexican-born World Boxing Council Continental Americas 122-lb champ who was raised in the Bronx, New York.

He said Lucero is a hard hitter who can also move well around the ring: "*Malakas at magalaw rin po sa* ring."

This means he would have to deviate from his famous raging-bull start, Pacquiao said.

After studying with his handlers Lucero's fight tapes, Pacquiao summed up his forthcoming strategy in three words: jab, straight, uppercut.

He also said he would try to fight at a distance—"*labanan ko sa labas*" —and use the ring.

No blind, devil-may-care jump-start, but it goes without saying that the lone reigning Filipino world boxing champion would look for an early opening, try to land a big one, then go for the kill.

After all, Pacquiao is aware that Lucero is not unshakeable.

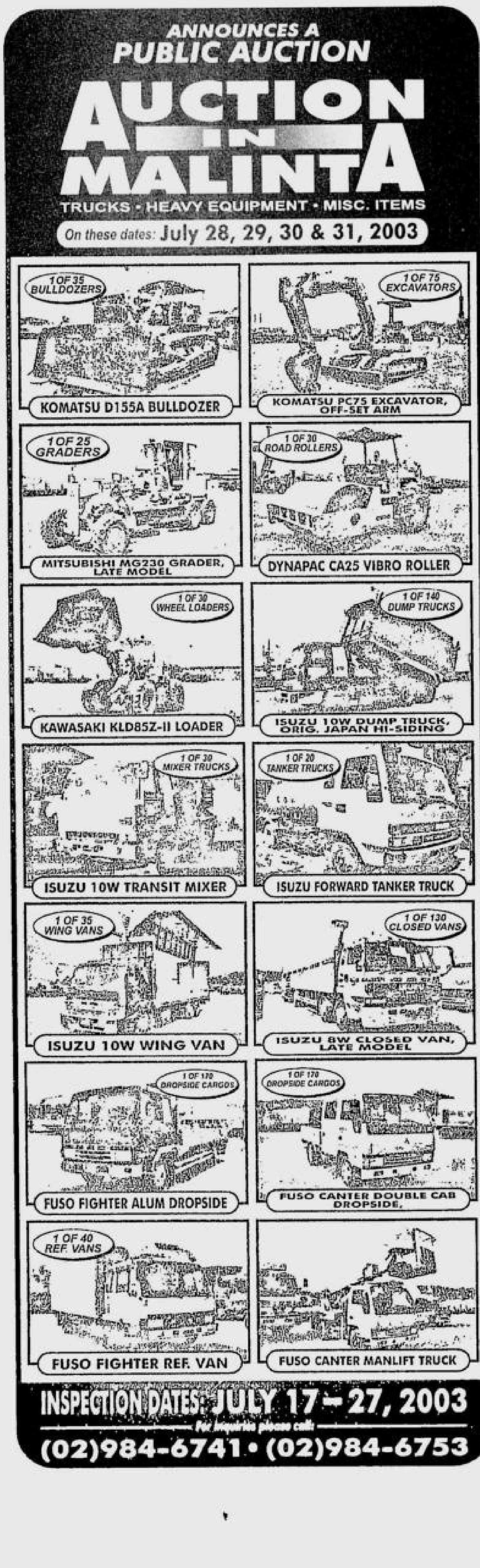
Records showed that last year alone, Lucero had to pick himself up twice from the canvas in the early rounds before he finally outpointed Frankie Archuleta.

Lucero, 24, holds a 21-0-1 slate with 12 knockouts.

Pacquiao, 24, is 36-2-1 with 27 knockouts.

Pacquiao is making the fourth defense of the crown he took from Lehlo Ledwaba in June 2001 after a shaky, non-title outing at the Luneta on March 15, where he lost his mouthpiece and was knocked down by Serik Yeshmangbelov, whom he stopped in the fifth round.

But the champ is laboring at his hardest in preparation for his defense at the Grand Olympic where no Filipino has ever won a world title fight.



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'NC' battle at the top

STANDINGS	W	L
Mapua	3	1
Letran	3	1
JRU	3	1
SSC-R	2	2
Perpetual	2	2
San Beda	2	2
PCU	1	3
St. Benilde	0	4

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—SSC-R vs Mapua (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (srs/jrs)

MAPUA seeks to sustain its winning form when the league-leading Cardinals tackle defending champion San Sebastian College today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Cardinals of coach Horacio Lim have bounced back from a stunning loss to Jose Rizal University by stringing up two wins that installed them at the top of the standings.

Although they share the same record with the Heavy Bombers and the Letran Knights at 3-1, the Cardinals have shown unparalleled intensity in their past two games against PCU and UPHR.

Mapua and SSC, which lost to Letran, 73-64, Monday, take to the court at 2 p.m.

The Knights and the Heavy Bombers, fresh from stirring victories over the Stags and the St. Benilde Blazers, respectively, on Monday, part ways in the other senior game at 4 p.m.

Letran coach Louie Alas has done a good job of motivating his wards as shown by the heads-up play of Ronjay Enrile, Frederick Rodriguez, Jonathan Aldave, Jonathan Pinera and Mark Fedelicio.

ALASKA and Purefoods renew their league rivalry in the second game. The Hotdogs are on the brink of elimination with two losses. ROMY HOMILLADA

Alaska, Sta. Lucia try to stay in front

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
5 p.m.—Shell vs SLR
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	1	0
Alaska	1	0
Ginebra	1	1
Shell	1	1
Purefoods	0	2

STA. Lucia Realty and Alaska Milk try to stay on top of the heap as they battle Shell and Purefoods, respectively, today in the Samsung Mabuhay Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Sta. Lucia meets Shell at 5 p.m., while Alaska tackles Purefoods at 7:30 p.m. in this single round robin tournament being held to determine the sixth and final qualifier to the Asian Invitationals starting July 27.

The Realtors and the Aces sport identical 1-0 win-loss slates.

Already assured of berths in the Asian Invitationals are Red Bull, Coca Cola, San Miguel Beer, FedEx and Talk 'N Text.

The team with the best record will make it to the Asian Invitationals, which will pit three tough foreign teams and the national training pool against the six PBA squads.

Powerhouse China heads track entries

WORLD power China heads 25 countries which have confirmed their participation in the 2003 Manila Asian Athletics Association championships slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Memorial track and field stadium.

Out to defend their titles in 10 events, the Chinese will be sending the biggest delegation of 70 athletes and officials in their bid to retain overall supremacy in the annual event.

Javelin thrower Li Rongxiang, the defending champion and Busan Asian Games gold medalist, will banner the Chinese team. He will be joined by fellow Asian Games titlists Gu Yuan (hammer throw) and Gao Shuying (polevault), who are also defending their titles in the championships.

Expected to provide stiff challenge to the Chinese are the Qatari and the Korean contingents. Qatar will be led by three long-distance runners who won their events in the 2002 edition held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. *Roy Luarca*

TEAM PDI's Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Judy Go in action. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Divers superior shuttlers

DIVE Shoppe, composed of recreational divers, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) scored contrasting victories at the start of the first Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton tournament Monday night at the Yellow Feather Badminton Center in Libis.

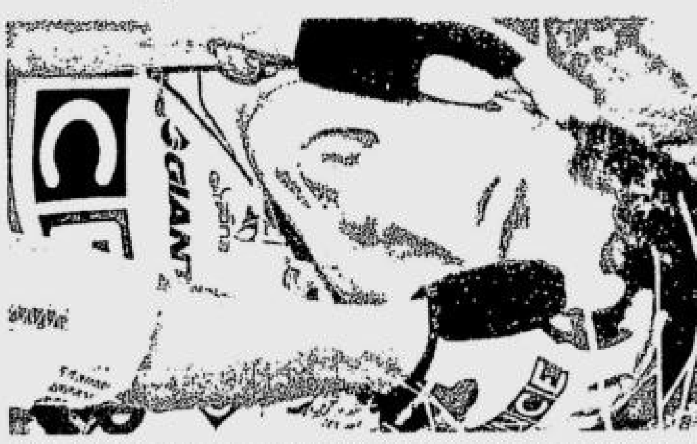
Dive Shoppe outclassed the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 4-1, behind the efforts of Teng Dayan and Alma Bringas (ladies doubles 35 years and above), Dave Santos and Glenn Molino (men's doubles 35 and above), Gina Flores and Jhona Magnaye (ladies doubles under-35) and Jingle Chan and Jeh Gloria (men's doubles under-35).

"This is our first big tournament and we hope to do well here in the eliminations and make it to the quarterfinals," said Dive Shoppe coach Ronald Magnaye, whose players honed their skills at the Aguinaldo Badminton Club.

ADB nipped Crossover-HSBC, 3-2, on the crucial win by Dennis Pascual and Jagey Nave over Mac Saldue and Mike Tolentino in the men's doubles under-35, in this tournament co-presented by Dunlop Slazenger, and which has Quantum Global, Robson-Sportscraft, Ultramax, Lino's Food and Entertainment and Ratsky's as major sponsors.

Other opening day winners in the weeklong tournament were Procter and Gamble Alpha which beat Procter and Gamble Beta, 4-1; Richard Ellis, 4-1 winner over Asian Development Bank; Bingo Bonanza, 4-1 victor over Philippine National Bank; and Nokia which ripped Dupont Pioneer, 4-1.

Lance survives scary ride, keeps Tour lead



SPANISH rider Joseba Beloki grimaces in pain after the crash. REUTERS

GAP, France—Lance Armstrong survived his biggest scare since winning his first Tour de France in 1999 when his leading rival, Spaniard Joseba Beloki, crashed in front of him near the end of the 184.5-km ninth stage to Gap.

The American's bid to win a record-equalling fifth Tour was nearly ruined when Beloki, runner-up last year and second in this year's race, lost control after his tire blew on the melted tarmac surface.

Armstrong was forced to swerve past the stricken ONCE team leader and into a dusty field before crossing a ditch and rejoining the race.

Beloki, in obvious distress, was helped by teammates before being taken to hospital in an ambulance.

Tour doctors later confirmed that he had broken his right leg near the hip and also sustained wrist and elbow fractures.

"I had never been that scared. Real panic. In a moment like that, it's only a reflex of survival," said the Texan.

The American, who survived cancer to win the first of his four Tours in 1999, kept his overall lead.

But Kazakh Alexandre Vinokourov, who won the stage in Gap after breaking away on the last of the day's four climbs is now hot on his heels.

Vinokourov, winner of the Tour of Switzerland, is now only 21 seconds behind Armstrong going into the 219-kilometer 10th stage to Marseille.

"It's really magnificent. I really wanted to win a stage. That day has come," said the Kazakh.

Vinokourov won his first Tour stage in just over five hours. He was followed home, 36 seconds later, by Italian champion Paolo Bettini and Spaniard Iban Mayo, winner in l'Alpe d'Huez on Sunday. Armstrong sprinted to finish fourth. Reuters

I'm innocent, says Bryant

LOS ANGELES—Speaking publicly for the first time since he was accused of sexual assault, Kobe Bryant denied the allegations and said he "would never do something like that."

"When everything comes clean, it will all be fine, you'll see," Bryant, 24, told the Los Angeles Times in a story published Sunday.

The five-time NBA All-Star would not discuss details of the case, the newspaper said.

"I shouldn't have to say anything. You know I would never do something like that," the Los Angeles Lakers star said in the brief telephone interview.

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Ultimate battle

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE'S no doubt about it, billiards is here to stay.

Having watched world-class tournaments organized by Puyat Sport before thousands of enraptured fans, I can say that the sport has indeed reached unprecedented heights.

Mainly because of the country's reputation of producing champion players (like the legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes and the always colorful Francisco "Django" Bustamante) and our successful hosting of international billiards meets, it would truly be an added feather to our cap to stage the first-ever "Battle of Billiards Champions" featuring the champions from Europe, the United States and Asia, including host Philippines. It would also be a good opportunity to host this star-studded event here because it would take away the world's attention from the crises that beset our country today, aside from lifting the spirits of Filipinos.

For this reason, I hope the Puyat brothers—Popit and Putch—push through with their plan to stage the costly project. I understand they are more than willing to hold this sporting spectacle to make their countrymen happy, but they are still banking on the full support from all sectors, including the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

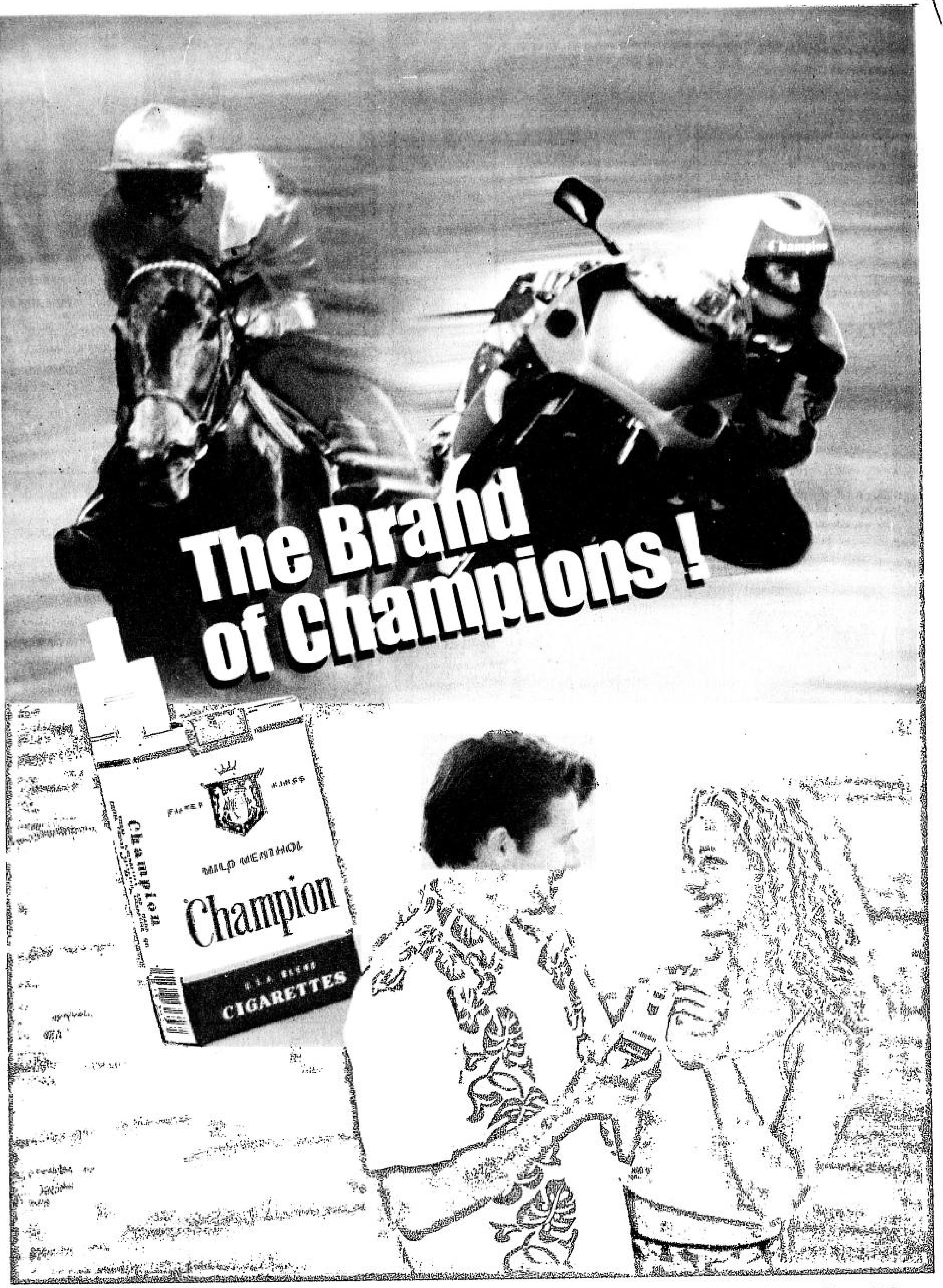
Cash-rich government agencies such as the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Department of Tourism would be ideal supporters of this pioneering project. It also needs the support of private companies such as Coca-Cola and Photokina Marketing, Philippine distributor of Red Bull energy drink and Agfacolor film.

And while on the subject of billiards, this is an idea worth passing to PSC chair Eric Buhain.

Sometime ago, reader J.L. Banguis wrote us, batting for the construction of a first-ever, income-generating "Billiards Salon" in the Philippines. He said: "Because there is no permanent venue exclusively for the sport, all major billiards tournaments here and even those in the United States are held in coliseums, casino resort-hotels and shopping malls, wouldn't it be wonderful for billiards enthusiasts . . . if we have a billiards salon which we can claim to be the only one in the world?

***

ASI IS GOOD, BUT EXEMPLARY HE IS NOT. I was amused to read that Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text was voted Best Player of the Conference by the local media. There is no question that the 6-foot-8 Taulava is a good player, but exemplary he is not. Truly exemplary players do not have to smoke marijuana (and cheat?), claiming they are half-Filipino in order to play in the Philippine Basketball Association. It is one thing to glamorize a player like Taulava because of his sterling performance in the playing court. But it is another to glamorize a player like him because of a tarnished record. Taulava is a role model for his legions of fans . . . CHEERS to TNT coach Joel Banal for winning the All Filipino championship. Banal succeeded where two other American coaches—Bill Payno and Phil Wolpert—failed . . . Kudos, too, to veteran internationalist Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, son of my esteemed friend, Tom Ong, for asserting his supremacy in pistol shooting last weekend. Padilla, the 38-year-old general manager of Spring Cooking Oil, dominated the standard and center fire events of the National Open shooting championships . . . And finally, *congrats* to my friend and former Evening Post colleague Rey Briones for preserving his winning ways in the authentic Filipino sport of cockfighting.



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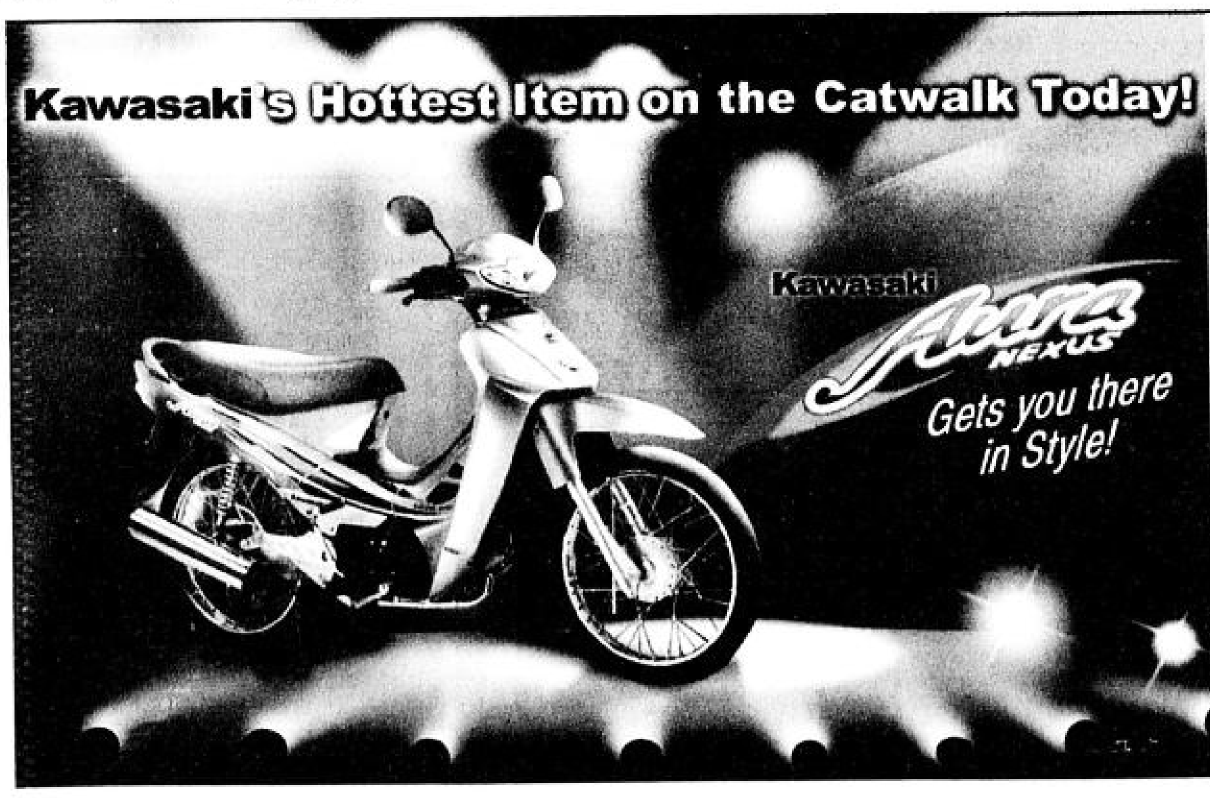

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SHOW TIME

DID YOU KNOW...

Trade Secretary **Mar Roxas**, one of the most eligible bachelors in the country, was spotted in Baguio City two weekends ago. At about 11 p.m. last Saturday, July 5, he showed up at the Manor Hotel in Camp John Hay with a woman in blue.

Good news on 'Dee's Day'

JOURNALIST Deedee Siytangco hosts "Dee's Day," the latest noontime show on television, every Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on RPN-9.

"Dee's Day' is a break from the usual song-and-dance noontime shows on TV today," says Sandee Siytangco-Masigan, the host's daughter who is also the show's coordinator. "It focuses on uplifting the human spirit, providing viewers with inspirational discussions and responsible tackling of issues.

"It concentrates more on the good news and on recognizing the outstanding achievements and remarkable experiences of people," she adds.

This week, "Dee's Day" will do the fitness thing in partnership with Converse. It will feature easy-to-follow exercise tips from fitness gurus. For the episode, Deedee, who was never a fitness buff, even tried yoga to prepare herself for the episode.

This Thursday's episode also features Brent Velasco, the first Filipino ever to win the world title on Muay Thai.

"Dee's Day" is only on its third month.

"Dee's Day" is replayed every Thursday midnight and Friday at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Italian filmmakers'...

From page A30

other channel in the Discovery Networks Asia Portfolio, continues to rank in the top most watched regional channels in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, where it is ranked fourth.

'Digital LG Quiz'

FOR the second straight year, the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television has awarded the "Digital LG Quiz" show its prestigious Anak TV seal, the symbol of family-friendly television in the Philippines.

The seal is bestowed on TV programs judged worthy of support by Filipino families, and of patronage by the education, business and religious sectors. Programs have to pass through a rigorous selection process involving thousands of jurors from all sectors of society.

Now on its fourth year, "Digital LG Quiz" is a state-of-the-art learning tournament that showcases the abilities of the country's best and brightest high school students, within the context of its techno-savvy format.

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Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

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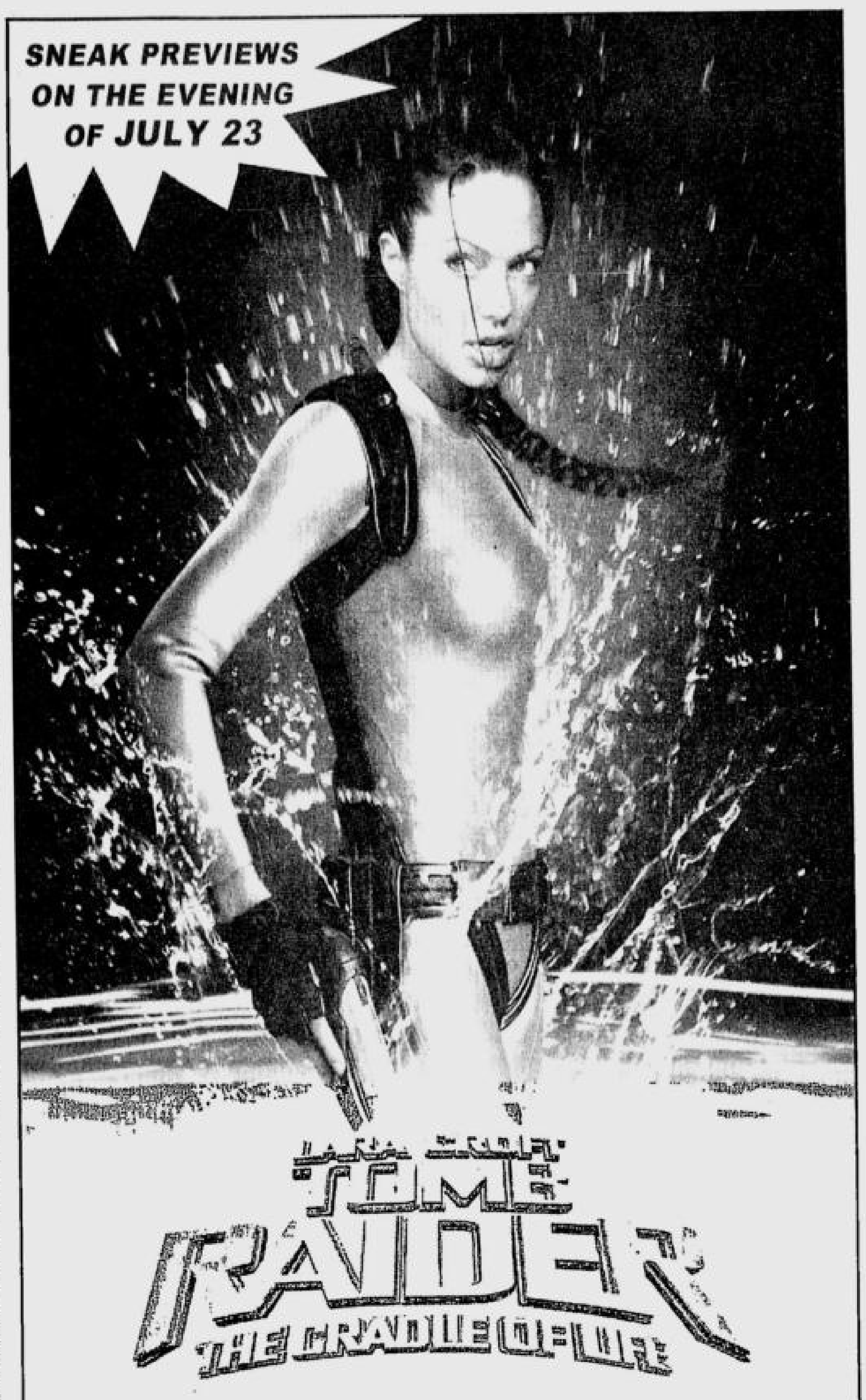
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Italian filmmakers' masterworks screened at CCP

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE 2003-2004 Italian Film Festival was launched recently at the CCP Little Theater with a special screening of **Federico Fellini's** "Amarcord." The 1974 production was an apt curtain-raiser for the festival because it evinced the exuberant creativity and high spirits of Italian filmmaking.

The film is Fellini's nostalgic trip to the Italy of his youth in the 1930s, full of warm, poignant and naughty episodes about love, sex, politics, family life and growing up—a big, thick cinematic pizza with everything in it!

"Amarcord" won the Best Foreign Film trophy at the Academy Awards. It is still a vital and vibrant viewing experience, almost 30 years after it was made—the sure sign of a film classic.

We have already run the Italian filmfest's screening schedule for the remaining months of 2003 in a previous column. Here now is its 2004 schedule of film treats (all screenings at the CCP's Dream Theater, at 4 and 7 p.m.):

Jan. 13, 2004, "La Dolce Vita" by Federico Fellini, starring **Marcello Mastroianni** and **Anita Ekberg**.

Feb. 10, "The Night Porter" by **Liliana Cavani**, with **Dirk Bogarde** and **Charlotte Rampling**.

March 9, "Ask Me If I'm Happy" with the comic trio of **Aldo, Giovanni** and **Giacomo**.

April 6, "Paisan" by **Roberto Rossellini**, starring **Gar Moore**, and **Carmela Sazio**.

May 4, "Opera" by **Dario Argento**, with **Asia Argento** and **Urbano Barberini**.

June 8, "Johnny Stecchino" by **Roberto Benigni**, starring Benigni and **Nicolleta Braschi**.

July 6, "The Tree of Wooden Clogs" by **Ermanno Olmi** (Cannes filmfest winner).

Aug. 3, "Ciao, Professore!" by **Lina Wertmuller**, starring **Paolo Villaggio**.

Sept. 7, "Padre Padrone" by **Paolo** and **Vittorio Taviani** (another Cannes filmfest winner).

Oct. 5, "Juliet of the Spirits" by Fellini, with **Gullietta Massina** and **Sandra Milo**.

Nov. 9, "Roco and His brothers" by **Luchino Visconti**, starring **Alain Delon, Renato Salvatori** and **Annie Girardot**.

Dec. 7, "The Red Desert" by **Michelangelo Antonioni**, with **Monica Vitti** and **Richard Harris**.

The Italian filmfest enables young Filipino film buffs to savor the masterworks of older artists like Fellini, as well as the movies of younger Italian filmmakers. It is hoped that, with this exposure and immersion, they can develop a keener appreciation of the possibilities of the film medium, and the achievements of the best cinema artists, to inform their evolving evaluation of today's movies.

Discovery Channel

THE DISCOVERY Channel has once again emerged as the most popular cable and satellite channel in Asia, according to the first quarter 2003 Pan Asia Pacific Cross Media Study (PAX).

PAX 2003 covers over 13 million viewers in Bangkok, Hong Kong, India, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei and Tokyo.

According to the latest survey, Discovery Channel has even increased its lead as Asia Pacific's most-watched regional channel by two percent. This increase came despite the war in Iraq and the SARS outbreak, which saw viewers tuned in to local news channels for updates.

In addition, Animal Planet, an-

ITALIAN/ A29

LEA will "rest" while Robert (left) will play golf with his future brother-in-law Gerard. Theater director Garcia is the TV director of their wedding special.

Lea, fiancé home for holiday

By Marinel R. Cruz

LEA Salonga and her Asian-American fiancé Robert Chien, who will be married on Jan. 10, 2004 in Los Angeles, arrived in Manila yesterday for a brief holiday.

"There will be no work for Lea while she's here, according to her mom, Ligaya Salonga," said Chit Guerrero, ABS-CBN vice president for special affairs.

"Lea will be in Manila just to rest, while Robert will play golf with her brother Gerard," Guerrero added.

Guerrero was speaking for Lea and Robert since ABS-CBN has clinched the right to air its exclusive coverage of their wedding.

"Lea will meet with ABS-CBN executives on Friday to formally sign the contract," Guerrero said.

The wedding was earlier scheduled to be held in Hawaii, where Robert's family is based.

But the couple decided to move it to Los Angeles, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, so it would be easier for them to fly in their friends and relatives from Manila.

The wedding will be aired as a special on Channel 2 and will include footage of Lea's bridal shower and Robert's stag party in Las Vegas.

It will also include a feature on the day Robert proposed to Lea, according to Guerrero.

Robert, who specializes in customer relations technology, proposed to Lea, 32, last February in his pad in LA.

Theater director Bobby Garcia is the TV director for the wedding.

Bobby and Lea had worked together in her major concert at the PICC last year and in the play, "Proof," also in Manila.

"We will be everywhere, including in the preparations for the wedding, the reception and even while the wedding gown is being made," Garcia said.

"We will also interview Lea and Robert's families as well as their friends and relatives."

Lea and Robert met in Los Angeles in November 2001 while she was starring in "Flower Drum Song" at the Mark Taper Forum.

They were introduced to each other by Robert's cousin, Christine Yasunaga, who was part of the musical's ensemble.

After the LA run of "Flower Drum Song," the new version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical went to Broadway in October 2002, still with Lea.

When the musical ended prematurely last March, Lea returned to LA, where she rents a pad and drives her own car.

Lea's mom and brother Gerard will fly to LA for the wedding.

'Role-snatching' no big deal, says Dina manager

By Nini Valera

SOAP star Eula Valdez had also been offered a role in "Mano Po 2," which has been the subject of a professional tussle between actresses Lorna Tolentino and Dina Bonnevie.

But Eula on Sunday said she did not know if the part that had been offered to her was that of the third wife.

"I don't want to get into that (controversy)," she said on Sunday during a cell phone conversation with this writer. "But it's true that I was offered a role in 'Mano Po 2.' I turned it down because of my schedule."

Eula said she was busy taping three times a week for her new soap over ABS-CBN "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay," and was also shooting the movie "Moral Ngayon."

She added: "I was asked to play one of the wives, but I don't know which wife."

The actress said the controversy over the role switching in "Moral Ngayon" had also left her unaffected.

"No such thing," she said. "I was not affected at all."

The original lead stars of Marilou Diaz's Abaya's 1982 film "Moral"—Lorna Tolentino, Sandy Andolong, Gina Alajar, and Anna Marin—had been replaced by a new set of actresses, including Eula. Bad feelings supposedly arose between the original cast and the new lineup after Star Cinema failed to inform the original "Moral" girls that they had been replaced two days before the shooting.

This sparked a television word war between Lorna, who played the lead character Joey in the original "Moral," and Dina, who replaced her in "Moral Ngayon."

Until recently, Lorna's manager Lolit Solis has taken pot shots at Dina for allegedly stealing the third wife's role in "Mano Po 2" and for landing Lorna's role in the "Moral" remake.

Dina's manager Arnold Vegafria, however, doused his talent's verbal barrage.

Arnold said on Sunday that it was "pointless to be fighting over a role because we haven't received a script yet."

"Up to now, we still don't know what the roles call for," he said. "For all you know, the role of wife No. 2 might have more substance."

Arnold, however, stressed that the controversial third wife role had been really offered to Dina.

"We had a meeting with Mother Lily (Monteverde, producer)," he said.

He dismissed the issue as "not a big deal."

"I will only cross the bridge when I get there," said Arnold, referring to the absence of the script.

"That's the time I will decide if the role is good for Dina," he said.

The actress earlier said she trusted Mother Lily that she would give her actors roles that would showcase their talent.

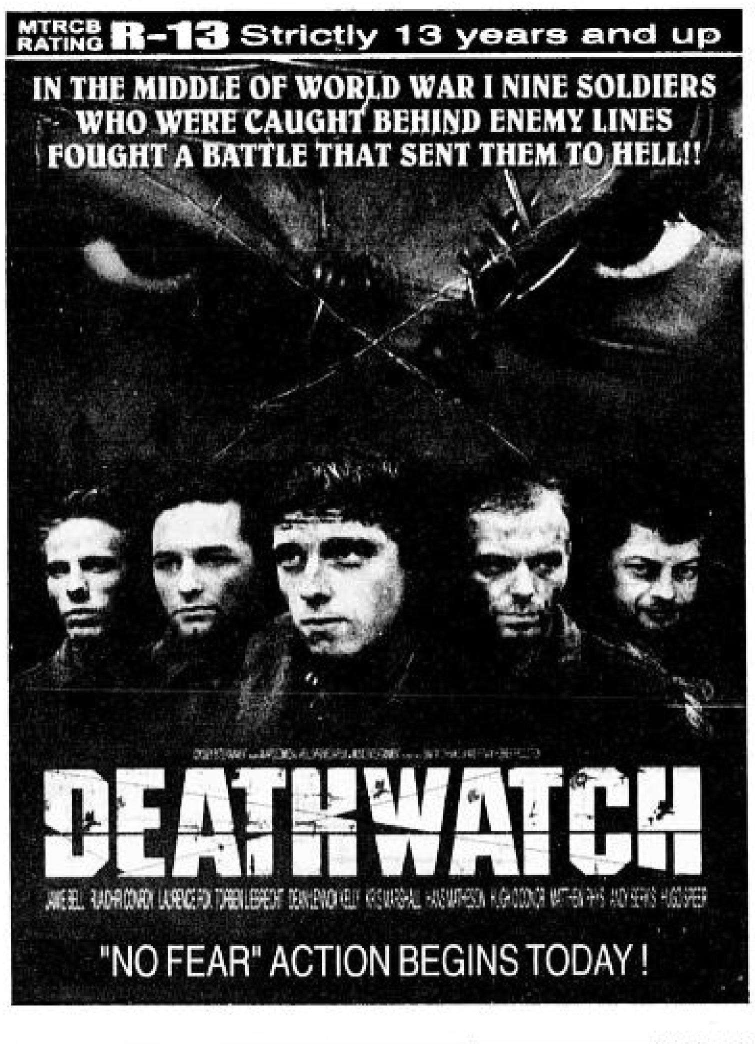
"She would never give us roles that do not fit us," Dina said in an earlier interview.

In the case of "Moral Ngayon," Arnold said he was not aware that the role he had accepted for Dina had been originally played by Lorna.

"They offered it to Dina and I liked it," he said. "They are both good actresses, every one knows that. But it's the producer's choice, the decision of the creative team (of any movie).

"The bottom line is it's the viewers who would decide who is the better actress," Vegafria added.

VALDEZ



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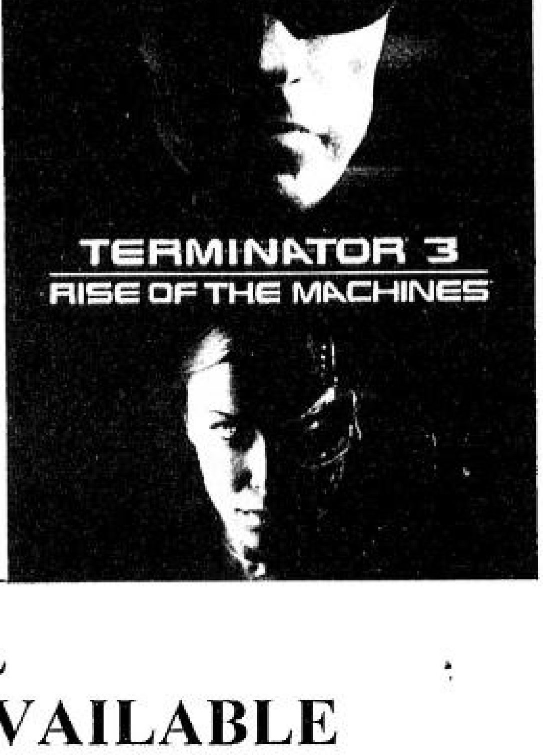

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

DID YOU KNOW...

She finally did it. That is, have liposuction, to take away excess body fat. Talk show host and movie star **Kris Aquino** on Sunday afternoon admitted on "The Buzz" that she finally had liposuction done on her. Asked by a viewer if she only had liposuction, she only said, *Hindi*. Monday afternoon, Kris was shopping alone at Rustan's at the Glorietta in Makati City's Ayala Center. She was looking for a binder, which lipo survivors usually have to wear post-surgery. She was overheard asking a saleswoman in the women's undies section if they had other kinds of binders. When asked if she would like to try their panty binder, she said, *"Ay, bawal, magkakaro'n ng* lines."

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JACKASS **R18** 1:40,3:40,5:40, 7:40,9:40	**LIZZIE MCGUIRE** **GP** 11:40,1:50,4:00, 6:10,8:20,10:30	**DOWN WITH LOVE** **PG13** 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10
IMPOSTOR **PG13** 11:40,1:40,3:45, 5:50,7:55,10:00	**BANGKOK HAUNTED** **R13** 1:20,4:00, 6:40,9:30	**TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES** **PG13** 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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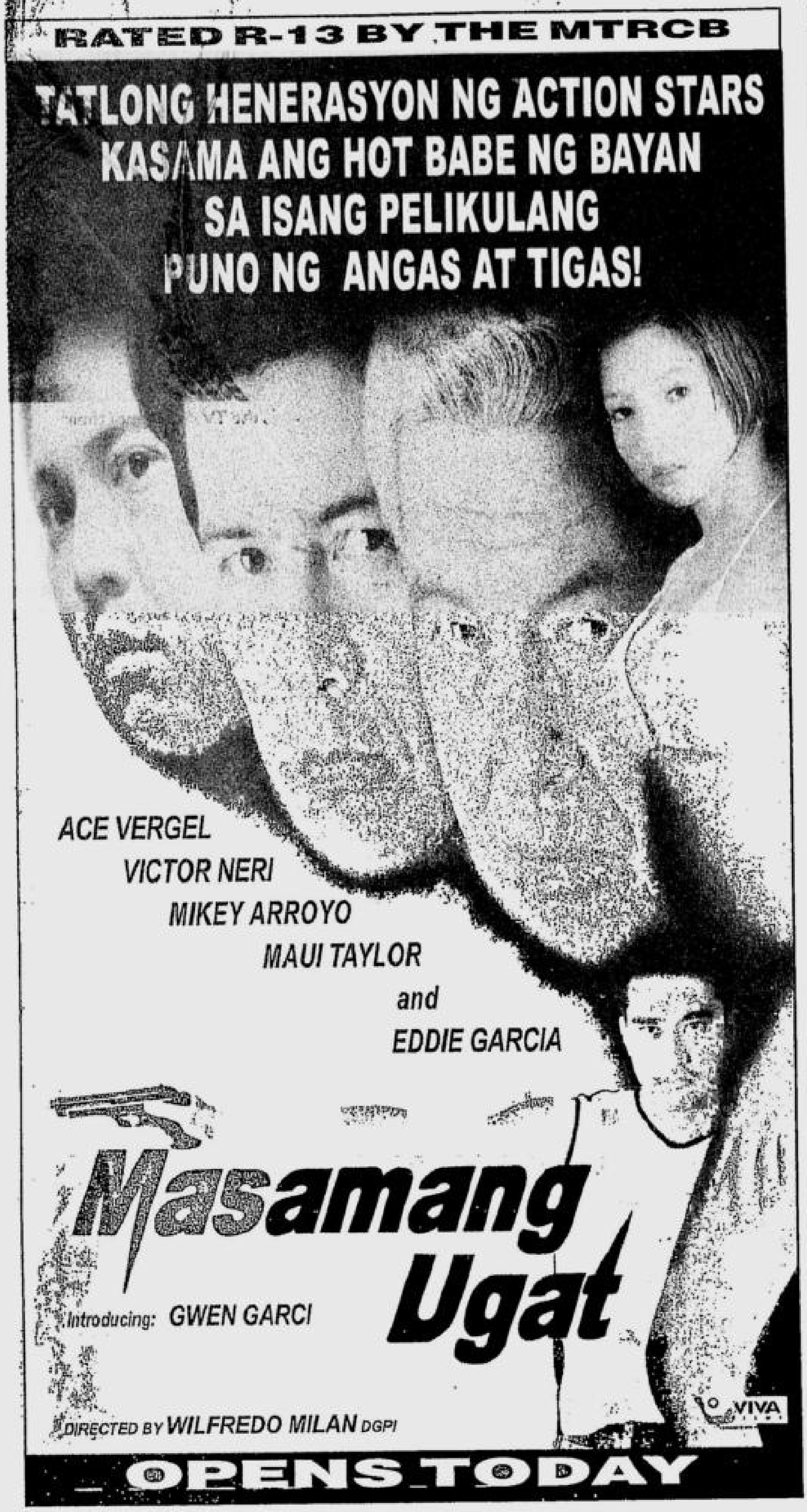
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	UNFAITHFUL CUNCUBINE/KANA 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAP
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUMB & DUMBERER
CINEMA-2	HUNTED
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	HOT SPOT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JACKASS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-14	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HANUTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	CHARLIE S ANGELS 2
CINEMA 2	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA 3	A MAN APART
CINEMA 4	28 DAYS LATER
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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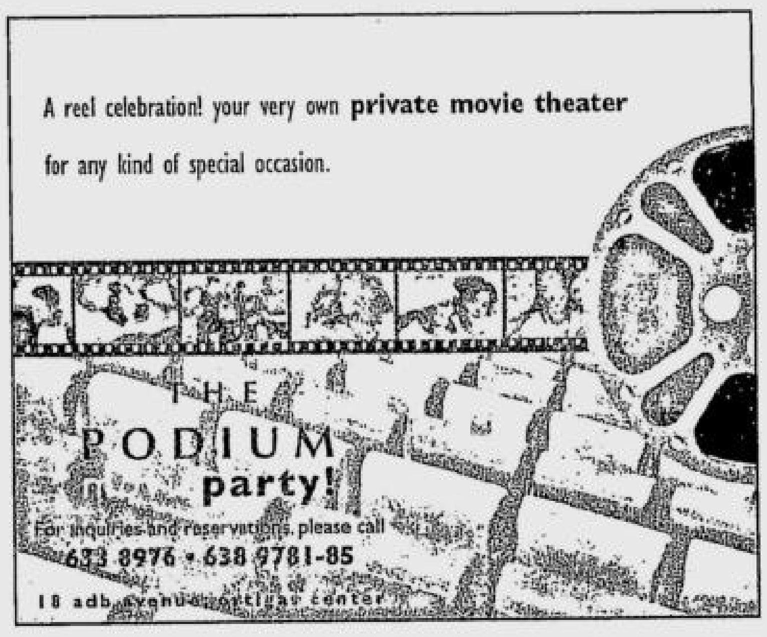
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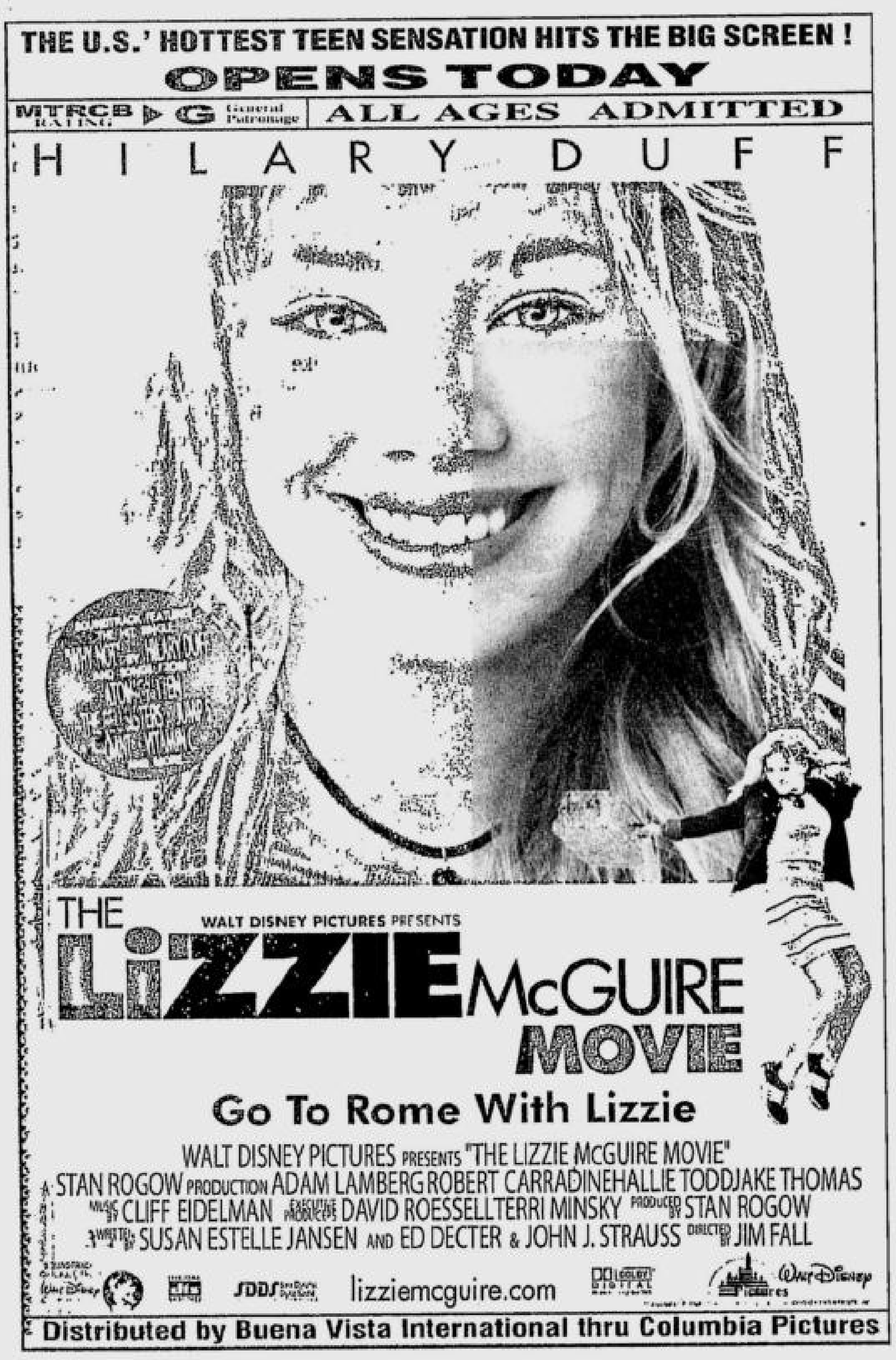
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BUSINESS

B1

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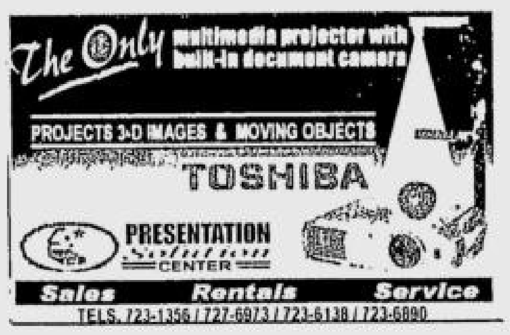
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Henry Sy buys Santander unit in RP

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed Banco de Oro Universal Bank of retail magnate Henry Sy yesterday executed agreements to acquire 100 percent of Banco Santander Philippines Inc., a local unit of Spanish banking giant Banco Santander Central Hispano S.A., for P2.56 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BDO corporate information officer Elmer Serrano said that under the terms of the agreements, the universal bank would acquire 88.45 percent of BSPI from BSCH and the other 11.55 percent from other local minority shareholders.

The agreement between BDO and BSCH stipulates that 10 percent of the total share capital of BSPI would be retained by BSCH in an escrow account for a six- to nine-month period, during which the acquired bank would continue to use the Santander logo and be managed by BDO.

Serrano said that with the acquisition of BSPI, BDO would "gain access to the market of high networth individuals and grow its private banking business, a niche that BSPI has successfully developed over the years."

"BDO also seeks to expand its coverage of a segment of the consumer market," Serrano said.

For its part, BSCH reportedly executed its agreement to sell BSPI to BDO as part of a worldwide strategy of concentrating activities in core markets.

As of June 2003, BSPI had P5.2 billion in assets and no bad loans. The unit is an extremely well-capitalized entity with a strong balance sheet and high asset quality.

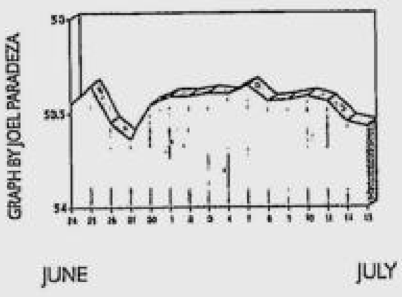
BDO, the country's 10 biggest in terms of assets with 155 branches nationwide, will pay a total of P2.56 billion for BSPI based on the latter's adjusted net book value.

Likewise, BDO Capital and Investment Corp., a wholly owned investment house unit of BDO, executed an agreement to acquire 100 percent of Santander Investment Securities Philippines Inc. for P28.4 million.

SISP is the local stock brokerage arm of the Santander group.

Serrano said that with the purchase of SISPI, the BDO group would become a member of the Philippine Stock Exchange and thus be able to expand its line of services.

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.585 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 15, 2003

Y 117.59 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 15, 2003

GOLD: $348.40-348.90

per ounce Hong Kong, July 15, 2003

July 15, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.886132	1.000000	53.480000
Japan	Yen	0.007535	0.008503	0.454700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.430394	1.614200	86.327400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113615	0.128215	6.856900
Switzerland	Franc	0.644976	0.727855	38.925700
Canada	Dollar	0.645257	0.728173	38.942700
Singapore	Dollar	0.505005	0.569898	30.478100
Australia	Dollar	0.584829	0.659979	35.295700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.350545	2.652590	141.860500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.236296	0.266660	14.261000
Brunei	Dollar	0.503570	0.568279	30.391600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021311	0.024050	1.286200
UAE	Dirham	0.241262	0.272264	14.560700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.128500	60.352200
Argentina	Peso	0.321062	0.362319	19.376800
Brazil	Real	0.308220	0.347826	18.601700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134447	0.151724	8.114200
India	Rupee	0.019280	0.021758	1.163600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.233224	0.263193	14.075600
Mexico	New Peso	0.085197	0.096145	5.141800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523255	0.590493	31.579600
Norway	Kroner	0.119973	0.135389	7.240600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015384	0.017361	0.928500
South Africa	Rand	0.117043	0.132083	7.063800
Korea	Won	0.000753	0.000850	0.045500
Sweden	Kroner	0.109265	0.123305	6.594400
Syria	Pound	0.021099	0.023810	1.273400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025872	0.029197	1.561500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000556	0.000627	0.033500

Shares close 1.27% higher

SHARE prices closed 1.27 percent higher yesterday on bargain-hunting after recent sustained losses, dealers said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone, ahead of first-half results due today, and Globe Telecom led the way, with investors also reacting positively to Monday's gains on regional markets and Wall Street.

STOCKS/ B4

Mirant of US files for bankruptcy protection; RP unit not affected

AMERICAN energy supplier Mirant Corp., unable to reach a last-minute out-of-court debt restructuring plan with its creditors, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection yesterday.

A $1.1-billion debt payment was due yesterday and Mirant needed all its banks and 85 percent of bondholders to support a debt exchange plan.

Mirant Corp., Mirant Americas Generation, LLC, and nearly all their wholly owned subsidiaries in the United States are included in the filings. Mirant's operations in the Philippines and the Caribbean were not included.

Mirant Philippines Inc. said it was business as usual for the country's biggest electricity supplier.

Allan Paul Flake, Mirant Philippines vice president for external affairs, said in a telephone interview that the parent firm's move would have no negative impact on their operations here.

"Our employees in the Philippines would

MIRANT/ B3

Economy seen growing by 3.6%-4.2% this year

By Michelle V. Remo

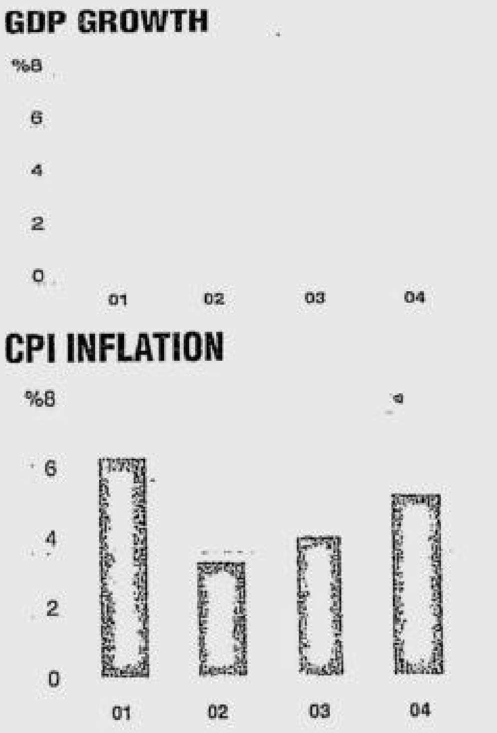
A CLIMATE of "less" politics would primarily contribute to the country's expected gross domestic product growth this year which would be competitive with the rest of its neighbors, according to the recently released Pacific Economic Outlook paper.

The forecast, which was made by the research organization Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), has set the country's GDP growth for this year at 3.6 to 4.2 percent. The figures are lower than the government's projections of 4.2 to 5.2 percent, but higher than the 2.8-percent average growth forecast it set for the entire region.

"Politically, conditions have been uncertain since the Estrada presidency, but things are starting to improve," the PECC said in its paper.

It said President Macapagal-Arroyo's pronouncement that she would not seek reelection has eased political pressure on the country's economic climate and would aid in the fulfillment of much-needed policy reforms.

ECONOMY/ B4



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1.6L Wagon Club MT	₱ 918,000	₱ 459,000	₱ 38,251	₱ 25,501	₱ 19,126	₱ 12,751
1.6L Wagon Club AT	₱ 966,000	₱ 484,000	₱ 40,334	₱ 26,889	₱ 20,167	₱ 13,445

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₱8.2B worth of infra projects OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority board has approved P8.23 billion worth of infrastructure projects, including a P2.91-billion countrywide bridge project.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Neda, chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the bridge project would involve the construction and replacement of 200 priority local bridges nationwide with a total length of 5,306 lineal meters (lms) using modular steel bridging technology.

Of the 200, 120 will be double-lane bridges with a total length of 3,538 lms while 80 will be single-lane bridges with a total length of 1,768 lms.

The project will cover all regions except the National Capital Region, Region 13 and the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao which have similar existing projects.

"The bridge project is expected to improve the local economies of the covered areas from subsistence to thriving market economies. The project is expected to improve farm-to-market access and provide more services and opportunities to local communities," the Neda said.

Also approved were the following:

- Procurement of pumps, drilling rigs and related Equipment Project (P1.03 billion);
- Rehabilitation of the Cagayan Integrated Agricultural Development Project—irrigation component (P472 million);
- The 20-MW Palinpinon III Geothermal Power Plant Project (P1.74 billion); and,
- The 2003 US Public Law 480 Title Loan Program (P2.08 billion).

Under the newly-approved project, irrigation equipment to cover 18,000 hectares of developed lands will be acquired.

The rehabilitation of irrigation component of the Cagayan Integrated Agricultural Development Project aims to increase crop production from the current average yield of 2.65 metric tons per hectare to 3.98 metric tons per hectare.

The 20-megawatt Palinpinon III project aims to address the projected shortfall in the power generation capacity in the Visayas by 2005 by making use of the excess steam in the existing Palinpinon II steam field.

In the meantime, the Neda said the 2003 US Public Law 480 Title Loan Program would involve the importation of 180,000 metric tons of rice representing about eight days of the country's national rice requirement and approximately 18 percent of the National Food Authority's average annual imports.

The NFA will ensure the proper timing of the release of the imported rice to avoid distortion in local market, the NEDA added.

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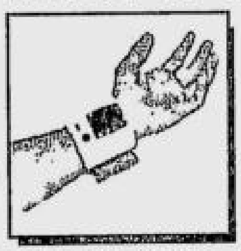

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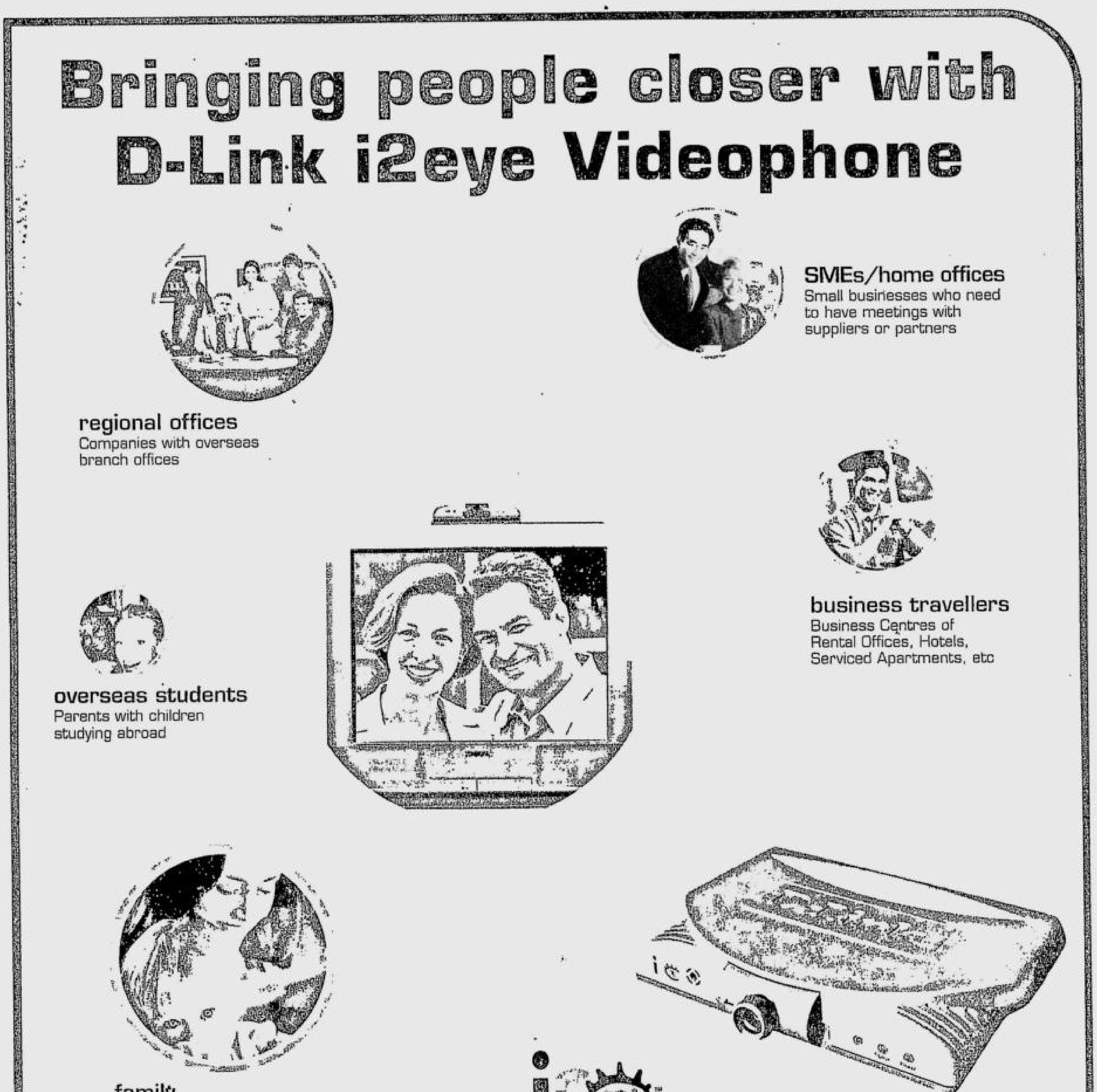

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PNB's 5-month net income seen at ₱67M

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE National Bank has sustained its profit streak in May, bringing its five-month income to P67 million, according to well-placed sources.

In May alone, the bank's net income stood at P7.1 million which, however, was lower than average of P17.6 million posted in the first three months of the year.

The bank had completed its first year of rehabilitation on May 3. PNB officials said the company had been moving well ahead of the schedule. Under the rehabilitation plan, the bank is expected to make profit starting 2006. PNB president Lorenzo Tan told stockholders in May that the bank was expecting to realize a profit of as much as P100 million this year after five straight years of losses.

In 2002, the bank registered a net loss of P1.95 billion although this level was substantially lower than the previous years' levels. PNB, the country's sixth largest bank, however, still has huge non-performing loans and a load of seized assets. PNB's bad loans remained the third highest in the industry at P48.85 billion or 53 percent of total loans in the first quarter.

The bank's seized assets is the highest in the industry P27 billion in the first three months, up 8 percent from P25 billion a year ago.

PNB officials recognized that the bank's NPL problem remained their biggest challenge. This year, the bank must sell some P2.5 billion worth of foreclosed assets and soured loans.

The bank's return-on-equity registered a positive 1 percent in the first quarter from a negative 11 percent in end-2002 and negative 27 percent a year ago.

PNB's rehabilitation program kicked off with the conversion of P7.8 billion in debts into government equity and consequently raising state ownership in the bank to 44.95 percent or at par with that of taipan Lucio Tan, who agreed to dilute his holdings from 67 percent to 44.95 percent.

Ukraine firms seek business partners in RP

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Business groups from the Republic of Ukraine, a member of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), have expressed interest in establishing partnerships with Filipino businessmen, a Ukranian official said on Saturday.

"Many Ukranian businessmen are really interested in having contacts with Philippine businessmen, especially in Clark. Part of our purpose in visiting Clark is to identify concrete projects that can be undertaken by Ukranian and Philippine companies," said Volodymyr Lakomov, deputy director-general of Ukraine's Department of Economic Cooperation.

Lakomov, who accompanied Ukraine Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko during his visit to this economic zone on Saturday, met with Clark Development Corp. (CDC) officials and discussed the possibility of trade cooperation.

Zlenko said his country wanted to promote economic and political cooperation with the Philippines.

Ukraine does not have a regular ambassador and consul in the Philippines, although businessman Oscar de Venecia was named the honorary consul of the Ukranian government in Manila.

Lakomov told CDC president Emmanuel Angeles that the Antonov cargo aircraft could be manufactured and sold from Clark by the Ukrainian manufacturer in partnership with Filipino companies.

Antonov cargo planes are among the world's biggest with lifting capacities of up to 250 tons.

Zlenko described Ukraine as a "crossroad" between Asia and Europe with political stability, low inflation and strong currency.

He said 40 percent of the military facilities of the former USSR were in Ukraine.

He said his country was not yet part of the European Union but it has an agreement with the group for economic cooperation. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Billionaire brats

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A VERY pregnant BF Homes heiress Nanette Aguirre-Koruga left with her two children yesterday for Seattle to be reunited with her American husband.

The husband had to flee the country in April after an incensed Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, acting on an anonymous complaint, finally issued a deportation order against the American for an infraction he committed on US soil nearly three decades ago, while he was still single and in his 20s.

Domingo managed to prevail despite the Korugas appealing their case to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and the Department of Justice.

The deportation of her husband is but one of the headaches plaguing Nanette in her fight to save her Manila and Seattle property from the foreclosure proceedings her billionaire, polo-playing brother Albert have instituted against her, after Nanette questioned the appointment of Albert as administrator of the Aguirre's multibillion-peso empire.

The family feud has also washed over to an uncle, Pedro Aguirre, who is now being prevented by a daughter from seeing his Alzheimer's-stricken wife.

According to the grapevine, the daughter had been inspired by the Ilusorio book, "On the Edge of Heaven," a heavily earmarked copy of which was found by Pedro Aguirre among his daughter's reading materials before the forced separation.

Written by the Ilusorio matriarch Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusorio, "On the Edge of Heaven" details how her multimillionaire children fought as to who shall administer the family empire after her billionaire husband was stricken with Alzheimer's disease.

The fight resulted in the forcible separation of the elderly Ilusorio couple, with the matriarch being prevented from seeing her husband even in his deathbed.

In retaliation against the book, Ilusorio daughters Maria Erlinda I. Bildner and Sylvia I. Yap have filed libel complaints against their 83-year-old mother, the latest among the 150-plus cases now bedeviling the fractious family.

In the meantime, an anonymously written book against the matriarch and her eldest son, Ramon, apparently a counterfoil to the matriarch's twin-volumes, are being circulated among Manila's society, business and even judicial circles.

Greenbelt stories

THE FAST-FOOD area of the old Greenbelt has been shuttered, the section that housed Gloria Maris and Pho Hoa, among other restaurants.

According to the grapevine, the fast-food section is being consolidated and being transformed into an Ace hardware.

With two upscale condominiums being built by the Ayalas across the street, not to mention at least four others within Legaspi Village, it does not need a rocket scientist to figure that there will be a need for hardware and home furnishing store within the neighborhood.

And that is why the truncated Cinderella store, also in old Greenbelt, has also been permanently shuttered, with the lease being taken over by Rustan's Express supermarket.

Dividing Journal

UNDERSECRETARY Roberto Capco, who has had enough polishing the freezers in Malacañang, wrote to say the position of chairman of the sequestered Journal Group of publications had indeed been offered to him.

He did not say by whom, but the Dante Ang ally said he declined to take the position after he found out that there is a current occupant, veteran newsman Teddy Berbano.

Instead, Capco said he was now willing to accept the position of chief executive officer, one of the hats incidentally being worn by his wedding sponsor, Journal president/CEO/editorial director Bobby de la Cruz.

De la Cruz, who Capco claims he is in good terms with, is naturally alarmed at the prospects of being reduced to a mere wallflower with Capco's entry.

Women rule in Urdaneta

THE NEARLY all-female board of the Urdaneta Village homeowners association has been quietly reelected, after the all-male opposition ticket decided to withdraw from the race after deciding they already have enough problems with their wives.

It is not immediately clear if the female board, which includes Frannie Jacinto and Marites Suplico, would again prevail on their lone male colleague, Rodolfo Cuenca, to say "Yes, Ma'm" and serve as president for yet another term.

Heard through the grapevine

CHINA-MADE "Colgate" is being snapped up in Divisoria at a jaw-dropping P10 per 150 ml tube.

At that price, you wonder how Hapee, Beam and other local brands can survive the Chinese invasion?

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Mirant...

From page B1

continue to report for work, get paid and receive their benefits," Flake said.

The filing is the latest milestone of financial turmoil for the company, which joined its rivals in furiously shedding assets, trimming the size of trading contracts and refinancing debt since the 2001 demise of Enron Corp. That debacle—coupled with a long slump in energy prices—left investors nervous about the huge debt loads independent energy merchants were carrying on their books and prompted credit downgrades for most firms, including Mirant.

In its filing, Mirant listed $11.4 billion in total debts and $20.6 billion in assets. It also had $1.17 billion in cash and said it had arranged $500 million in financing to operate during bankruptcy.

The petition, along with one relating to several of its Canadian subsidiaries, was filed in US Bankruptcy Court in Fort Worth, Texas.

Atlanta-based Mirant said the court allowed it to honor obligations under existing and future trading and marketing contracts that support Mirant's extensive asset base. The protection applies only to parties that do not terminate trading and marketing contracts because of Mirant's Chapter 11 filing.

Ronnel W. Domingo, AP

Lopez firm settles $45-M loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

A UNIT of the Lopezes' First Philippine Holdings Corp. has fully retired a $70-million credit facility owed to creditor-banks with the payment of the $45 million in remaining principal and interest.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FPHC said FGHC International had settled the balance of $45 million as of yesterday, following several extensions.

FGHC is a wholly owned Cayman Island-incorporated subsidiary whose debt was guaranteed by FPHC, the holding company for the Lopez group's power and other infrastructure businesses.

"Part of the funding came from its drawdown on the term notes of $35 million issued to the Asian Infrastructure Mezzanine Capital Fund (Cayman Islands) Ltd.," FPHC said.

AIMCF is owned by Darby Overseas Investments Ltd. of Washington D.C. through Hong Kong-based Prumerica Asia Infrastructure Investors.

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- Samsung 5.1ch Amplified Speaker System
- Teac DVD Home Theater System
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- Kenwood Amplifier

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- Samsung 2 Door Refrigerators
- Samsung Electronic Washing Machines
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Microwave Ovens
- Coffee Makers

OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- Pentium Computers
- Laptop Computers
- Apollo Printers
- HP Printers
- IBM Electric Typewriter

OFFICE FURNITURE
- Office Table
- Computer Table
- Visitors Sofa
- T.V. Stand

POWER TOOLS
- Cordless Drill
- Angle Grinder

SALOON EQUIPMENT
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- Electric Trimmer
- Electric Massager
- Electric Hair Curler
- Electric Hair Straightener

OTHER ITEMS
- Plastic Shovel
- CD Rack
- Mobile Phone Accesories
- Computer Peripherals
- Animation Studio Paints
- Silkscreen Paints
- Ceiling Fans
- Dining Table Set
- Assorted Soft wares

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
- Gambro Dialysis Machine
- Medrad Mark V Portable X-Ray
- Intr-Aortic Ballon Pump

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Shares close . . .

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 16.06 points to 1,272.39.

"Bargain-hunters went back into the market after four days of profit-taking, with the rally helped by gains in the US and regional markets," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities said.

"We saw sustained losses since last week so investors thought it's time for bargain-hunting," said Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities.

De Leon said investors might be taking positions ahead of PLDT's interim results today, with the company expected to set a positive tone for the earnings reporting season.

Volume fell to 235.4 million shares worth P470.7 million from 750.72 million shares worth P638.97 million on Monday.

Gainers led losers 31 to 15, with 26 stocks unchanged.

PLDT rose P15 to P555 while Globe Telecom was up P10 to P700.

San Miguel "B" at P60 and San Miguel "A" at P52 were both flat after a court ruling put in doubt chair and chief executive officer Eduardo Cojuangco's control of the company. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 15, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	21,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	48	47.5	47.5	66,200
China Banking Corp.	645	645	645	645	160
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34.5	33.5	34.5	35,800
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	31	31	261,400
Philippine National Bank	25	25	24.75	24.75	22,700
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,400
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	52,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.25	20.75	20.25	20.75	7,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	91,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1440	1455	1440	1455	100
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1050	1050	500
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22	22.5	22	22.5	60,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.7	3,630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	705	690	700	72,720
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.047	0.046	0.046	14,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.57	13,330,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	545	555	545	555	107,640
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	1,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12	12.5	12	12.5	1,058,300
Manila Electric Co. B	18	18.5	18	18.5	1,402,500
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.14	2.08	2.14	10,599,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	511,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	1,220,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	5,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	148,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	512,100
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	52	51	52	90,100
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	60	59	60	92,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.85	24,107,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.65	2.5	2.65	898,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.035	4,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	26,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	750,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.92	1.86	1.9	338,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	5,000
Boulevard Holdings, Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	350,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.67	0.62	0.67	27,390,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	1,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	7,250,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15.25	17.25	15.25	17.25	2,666,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.32	1.44	1.32	1.38	2,819,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.73	950,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.34	12,820,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.42	10,580,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	520,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	15	14.5	15	55,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	3,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.34	0.34	190,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	290,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	35,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.5	284,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	6,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,374,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.175	0.19	0.165	0.18	7,450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.245	4,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	10,660,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	1,440,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	740,000
Primex Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	1,387,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,330,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	750,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	20,000,000

INTEREST RATES

July 15, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 15-Jul-03	MART1 14-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2643	6.2847
3 Months	6.3429	6.3679
6 Months	7.2714	7.2733
1 Year	7.887	7.9111
2 Years	8.855	8.875
3 Years	9.4875	9.6317
4 Years	9.9589	10.0967
5 Years	10.2333	10.2983
7 Years	11.089	11.1717
10 Years	11.4342	11.472
20 Years	11.965	11.9763
25 Years	12.3617	12.385

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Economy seen . . .

From page B1

It also noted that the government's fight against corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency has "grown stronger."

The outlook also attributed the country's economic performance to the heightened activity in the services sector, such as in call centers, customer service, transcription, encoding and software development.

"The Philippines has proved a viable player in the supply of exportable services. Over the past few years, there has been rapid growth in the number of companies involved in such industries," it said.

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₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	6.375%	6.625%	6.875%
₱5,000,001 and above	6.625%	6.875%	7.125%
DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.500%	2.500%	2.500%
$ 500,001 and above	2.875%	2.875%	2.875%

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Zen and a working mom's guilt

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

I CAME home the other night to a sleeping baby. It was not the first time my work had snatched our bedtime ritual away (nor do I think it will be the last time). But it was the first time it was unbearble. Still in my work clothes, I climbed into bed with him, put my cheek against his cheek and sniffed him, taking in that divine scent of baby sweat, cologne, milk and innocence. I took deep breath after deep breath, sucking his sweet smell in and hoping that he can sense and I am never more than a breath away from him.

Have you been here before? You probably have been, maybe even several times over. You know how it feels to have your insides tear at you because you have come to see so acutely, so vividly, what you're missing. It's the price we pay, some of you say, for wnating to have it all. We like to beat ourselves over this—tempeted all too often to give up our work, consider staying at home instead, consider going into business, consider going freelance—all just so that we don't have to lay here victim to a work clock we can't control.

Yes, we could see it that way. We could hang our head in defeat, as if our choices and decision only leave us victim of their consequences. But we could also recognize the gut wrenching for what it is: a reminder, a strong nudge if you will, that you could be slipping off the balancing team. It doesn't mean you've fallen off; it only means you're leaning too far off to one side and need a balancing pole to shift your weight, slowly, deliberately toward the center again. We cannot allow this one moment of guilt to define our whole journey as mothers. We only use it to regain focus.

Our biggest ally as working moms is our willingness to try again and again. That's what will make the difference in our children's life: not the moments we fall, but the moments we get back again. If I missed bedtime today, I will make it tomorrow. Or I will linger with him longer in the morning, be the first face that he sees when he wakes up and send him off on a new day with a joyful hug.

One of the biggest lessons I am learning from my son is a lesson my Zen teacher has been trying to teach me for months: the most precious moment is the moment you have now. It is not that bedtime that you missed, nor is it the Saturday you will spend together. It is the here and now. When Diego opens his eyes tomorrow, he will not be thinking of yesterday, he will be only embracing the now. For a toddler, there is no yesterday, no tomorrow, just this moment. And so my son Diego gives me what I so often forget to give myself, the chance to start again.

So now, at this moment, I close my eyes, listen to my son's breathing. It is an even cadence, deep inhale, long exhale, and a tiny snore in between. I slow my own breathing to his, grateful for the wisdom of a one-year-old.

Volunteer for Hands On

ARE you interested in getting involved as a volunteer? Come to Hands On Manila's New Volunteers Orientation on July 25, 2003, 6PM at the 2nd floor of the Power Books at Arnaiz Street (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City and learn how you can make a difference. The orientation is designed to inform individuals and groups about Hands On Manila's volunteer programs and projects and show you how easy it is to get involved as a volunteer. For details, please call 843-7044 and 843-5231 or email handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph.

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Stairs of customer loyalty...

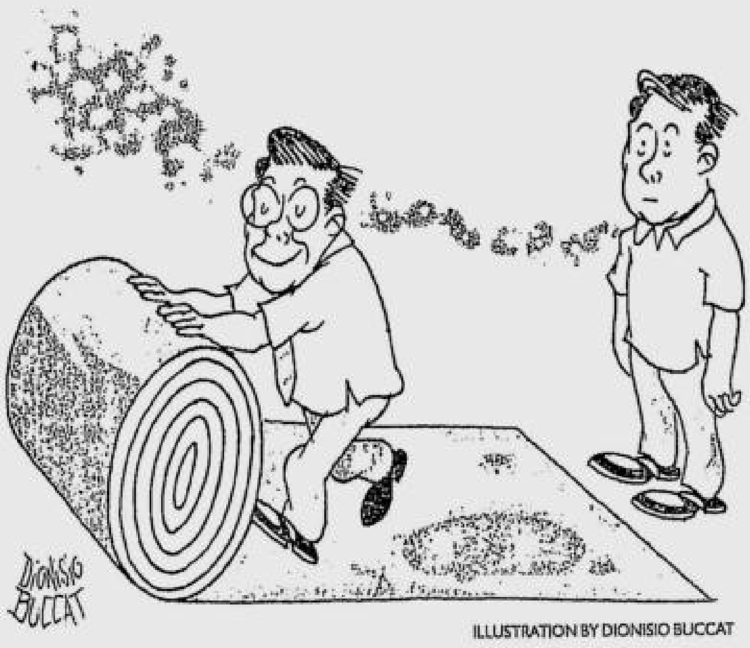

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

From page B14

malpractice."

2. Collaborating solutions

After you've worked with your prospects to identify needs and concerns, the next step is to determine whether or not your product or service will solve a problem or seize an opportunity for them. Usually there are several different ways you can put your product or service together to meet the needs of your prospects.

The collaborative selling way is much less adversarial and much easier. You actually involve your prospects in deciding which one of your options makes the most sense for them.

3. Confirming the sale

If you've done your job properly to this point, your customer should be asking to buy from you. The commitment becomes a how and a when, not an 'if.'

Signing the agreement is merely a formality. However, before confirming the sale, you'll want to be sure your prospect has all the information he needs to increase their perceived value of your product or service.

Building long-term customers

The next stage after you close the sale is building long-term customers. To do this, you must bear in mind the following:

1. Operations-driven vs. customer-driven

Leaders in their industries are always customer-driven, instead of operations-driven. Through the keen application of service skills, smart companies design strategies that assure that customer expectations are consistently identified, managed, and monitored. Then, once these are accomplished, exceeding customer expectations becomes the compelling focus.

Companies that apply the correct service skills create moments of magic for their customers, rather than moments of misery.

2. Moments of misery vs. Moments of magic

Any occasion a customer comes into contact with any aspect of your company is actually of moment of truth for your organization. When the customer encounters a member of your staff, a piece of advertising, or any thing else that can be tied to your company, they formulate opinions, beliefs, impressions, and ideas about who you are and what you're about. These moments of truth normally result in one of three outcomes: a Moment of Misery, a Moment of Mediocrity, or a Moment of Magic.

Customers who consistently have their expectations exceeded-or, receive Moments of Magic-are those who become apostles for your organization.

3. Converting customers into apostles

Exceptionally strong intimacy with the customer characterizes the apostle stair of customer loyalty. Creating apostles should be the highest goal of customer development. Apostles will do more for your organization through their good will and word of mouth than almost any other form of marketing or sales. Smart companies look to double the number of apostles each year by moving prospects, sales, and customers up the stairs of customer loyalty.

4. Apostle-driven

Companies that become "Apostle-Driven" are those which do not constantly have to dedicate limited resources of time and money to always finding new customers. Their Apostles accomplish this task for them. Such leading companies, of which there are far too few, are the ones that will dominate their industries now and well into the new century.

The Stairs of Customer Loyalty shows you how to consciously shape a plan for developing your customer relationship skills in a more congruent manner and is a benchmark in fostering and promoting permanent customer relationships for businesses of all sizes. The Stairs of Customer Loyalty helps you recognize the wide range of challenges facing your company today and provides the skills indispensable for overcoming them so you can achieve the critical relationships needed to survive and thrive in the new millennium.

(Copyright 2003 by Dr. Tony Alessandra, used with permission. For feedback or information regarding Dr. Alessandra's products or services, please contact info@alessandra.com, http:// www. alessandra.com.*)*

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CHINA BANKING CORPORATION

Paseo de Roxas corner Villar St., Makati City

A full-service universal bank with 139 branches and 166 ATMs

Celebrating 83 years of service since 1920

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of JUNE 19, 2003

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items		P 1,320,526,332
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,917,028,193
Due from Other Banks		11,173,086,131
Interbank Loans Receivable		9,194,660,028
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		6,183,227,213
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		27,330,472,536
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		35,023,370,198
Equity Investments (Net)		166,647,521
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,986,647,802
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		4,397,825,906
Others		3,724,505,031
TOTAL ASSETS		P 103,417,996,891

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits		P 9,450,797,618
Savings Deposits		26,563,538,921
Time Deposits		36,722,403,260
Special/Other Deposits		70,652,919
Due to Bangko Sentral		54,147,940
Due to Banks		1,416,205
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		208,674,675
Bills Payable		8,648,191,276
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		621,035,666
Other Liabilities		3,903,499,083
TOTAL LIABILITIES		P 86,444,357,563

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock		P 3,045,341,160
Surplus		11,746,929,507
Surplus Reserves		298,565,357
Other Capital Accounts		1,882,803,304
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		P 16,973,639,328
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		P 103,417,996,891

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		P 1,671,096,718
Bills for Collection		242,319,421
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		0
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		9,427,343,936
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		25,496,352,632
Invested in:		
Government Securities	P18,238,432,636	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	760,324,490	
Loans and Discounts	2,118,368,610	
Other Assets	4,379,226,896	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	21,947,770,747	
Common Trust Funds	959,356,185	
Investment/Fund Management	2,747,410,089	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	(158,184,989)	
Other contingent accounts		3,730,182,513
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 40,567,295,220

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:		
A) Government ..		P 93,785,250
B) Banks		157,038,679
C) Trust department		13,545,899
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	*6% For Small Ent.*	*2% For Medium Ent.*
Actual Compliance	206%	682%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		8,804,815,804
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		15.19%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		14,194,017,549
6. General provision for loan losses		2,623,785,522
7. Specific provision for loan losses		3,285,316,203
8. Return on Equity		19.54%
9. DOSRI loans/advances		2,421,321,395
10. Ratio to total loan portfolio		4.80%
11. Past due DOSRI loans/advances		67,192,207
12. Ratio to total loan portfolio		0.13%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, PETER S. DEE and RICARDO R. CHUA, of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) PETER S. DEE
President

(Sgd.) RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this July 10, 2003, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12419550 issued at Manila on January 14, 2003 and Residence Certificate No. 14426818 issued at Makati on February 12, 2003, respectively.

Doc. No. 68
Page No. 15
Book No. 34
Series of 2003

(Sgd.) FLORA E. DE PANO
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 7613171 Makati 1-3-03
TIN 171-621-652

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GILBERT U. DEE
Chairman

HANS T. SY
Vice-Chairman & Chairman of the Executive Committee

PETER S. DEE
President & Chief Executive Officer

MEMBERS

CHIA JANG LIU

JOAQUIN T. DEE

HARLEY T. SY

PILAR H. LIAO

HERBERT T. SY

HENRY T. SY, JR.

DY TIONG

YVONNE S. YUCHENGCO

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

ROBERT Y. DEE, JR

HENRY SY, SR.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Chairman

PETER S. DEE
President & Chief Executive Officer

RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENTS

DANILO A. ALCOSEBA

REYNALDO L. LAO

HONORIO O. REYES-LAO

NANCY D. YANG

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of JUNE 19, 2003

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items		P 1,323,736,445
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,917,028,193
Due from Other Banks		11,173,086,131
Interbank Loans Receivable		9,194,660,028
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		6,183,227,213
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		27,420,306,565
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		35,023,370,198
Equity Investments (Net)		115,147,521
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,987,439,627
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		4,397,825,906
Others		3,781,197,008
TOTAL ASSETS		P 103,517,024,835

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits		P 9,450,797,618
Savings Deposits		26,563,538,921
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Due to Banks		1,416,205
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		208,674,675
Bills Payable		8,648,191,276
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		856,000,025
Other Liabilities		3,967,562,868
TOTAL LIABILITIES		P 86,543,385,507
Minority Interest in Subsidiary		P 0

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock		P 3,045,341,160
Surplus		11,746,929,507
Surplus Reserves		298,565,357
Other Capital Accounts		1,882,803,304
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		P 16,973,639,328
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B) Banks		157,038,679
C) Trust Department		13,545,899

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
A) CBC FOREX CORPORATION
B) CBC INSURANCE BROKERS, INC.

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CITY OF MAKATI

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Notary Public
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'As a new manager, how can I make my mark?'

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I just got a big promotion to be the manager of my department. I thought everybody would rally around me as a former employee, but instead it feels like an invisible wall has gone up all around me. Are there some things I can do to show them I'm going to be a different kind of boss?

Still The Same Old Joe

Recently my five-year-old daughter (a veritable font of business insight) announced that she knew what she was made of. "Snakes and snails and puppy dog tails?" I teased. "No," she said derisively, "that's boys. I'm made of skin and bones and imagination!"

Well (again, not wanting to draw too close a parallel between my daughter and your career) it strikes me that there's a certain similarity between her sense of anatomy and your new job. That is, you seem to have captured the "skin and bones" of the people who report to you (their bodies show up for work), but you haven't yet fired their imaginations by showing them what an inspiring leader you can be.

Unfortunately that's not something a promotion automatically drops in your lap. It's something you've got to earn. Hopefully the following tips will help. For more advice check out "Flight of the Buffalo" by James Belasco and Ralph Stayer, Warner Books, 1994).

Are you giving your workers the responsibility AND authority they need to do their jobs? Don't make that old mistake of expecting your workers to win the race while you're holding onto the reins. The best thing you can do to prove you're a different kind of boss is to set the standards high-then give your employees room to decide how to get those standards met.

Are you a good coach? And I don't mean the kind of coach who barks, "drop down and give me twenty (pushups)." You want to prove to your employees that you're genuinely interested in their development. Jointly develop a "skills improvement plan" with each employee and meet regularly to review each person's progress. Annual reviews are a joke; you should be talking with your people monthly about their strengths and weaknesses.

Have you shown your employees that you're attentive to their concerns? Managers expect people to jump at their orders-but few managers set records when it comes to responding to their workers' wishes. If you want to be respected, walk your talk. Make your corner of the bureaucracy more responsive to the people who report to you.

The fact is you aren't the same old Joe anymore because, like it or not, you're now signing paychecks. But one thing hasn't changed: your ability to see the obstacles you saw so clearly when you were on the other side. And that gives you your biggest chance to tear down that invisible wall: you can use your power as a manager to do something about the bureaucratic folderol that drives employees mad. It may not be easy, but if you just use a little imagination . .

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Math teacher explains numbers through stories

By Cecile G. Garcia

CAREER TALES

FOR MANY, math and teaching is a combination that not many will choose as a career. But Elizabeth Landicho did because she loved both. In fact, because of her love for teaching math, Landicho has discovered that the use of storytelling in her tutorial lessons can make math come alive. For example, in teaching the history of trigonometry, she narrates how it came about and identifies its practical applications, thus making it more relevant and real. No matter how much students may hate math, declares the teacher, when she tells a story, they sit up and listen.

Landicho is a faculty of MSA Academic Advancement Institute, a tutorial and review school. She joined MSA after graduating from the University of the Philippines with a degree in BS Math.

Grasp of subject matter

As a math teacher, Landicho tells her students that math is not as tough at it is perceived to be and is not something to be feared. She explains to them that understanding math and its different concepts is the key to conquering and even mastering it.

A good math teacher has a full grasp of the concept at hand and effectively illustrates this to her students. For a mechanical or skill-based concept, Landicho clarifies, students are given a set of exercises, from the easiest to the hardest. For concepts that are more difficult to understand, such as calculus where analysis is necessary, they're handed out various problems to be solved until they figure out the correct method of analyzing a particular problem.

Elizabeth Landicho wanted to be a teacher because of her high regard for the profession and for teachers. She says, "I used to admire my teachers in school. I looked up to them. Even then, I realized that teaching was a vocation, and that one could not be a good teacher unless his heart was in it. I dreamed of becoming a teacher one day."

Varied students

Though she could have opted to teach at UP, Landicho felt that would have been less challenging than her present job where she has students belonging to different levels-from grade school to college.

Indeed, the 25-year-old math teacher has an interesting variety of students. Those in the tutorial classes, in fact, can sometimes vary from day to day, though there are some who have been with her for years. Tutorials, claims Landicho, are relatively easier to handle and do not require her to prepare lessons ahead of time.

Her other students include those in the review classes which may be classified into non-profession, referring to elementary and high school students preparing for entrance exams, and professional which is composed of those who would like to review for the Civil Service, Career Executive and Law Aptitude exams.

Review classes are harder to teach because they entail preparation and because adults as a whole don't always find it easy relearning topics or subjects they knew in their student days.

Landicho devotes most of her time to tutorials, teaching on weekdays, with four classes per day. She handles review classes only on weekends.

Greatest challenge

Being the best teacher she can be is Landicho's greatest challenge. A good teacher, according to her, is able to establish rapport with her students. She elaborates, "She is knowledgeable and most of all, patient. She is able to earn the trust of her students. She's interested in their progress and is sincerely concerned about them as individuals. Above all, she has a passion for her job."

The most rewarding aspect of it as far as the teacher is concerned, is seeing the progress of her students. She says, "The best part is when I see their grades improve." This gives her a sense that she has been able to help and makes everything worthwhile.

Evidently, Landicho empathizes with her students. She avers, "Their success is my success as well." She explains that this is how she measures personal success. Conversely, her students' failure would be her failure too.

Inspiration

Devotion to her students is a potent motivation. "I have to do my best because they rely on me," says Landicho. "It's up to me to instill love of knowledge in them, to encourage them to develop their skills and to teach them discipline. I also make them realize that learning is an ongoing process. It never stops."

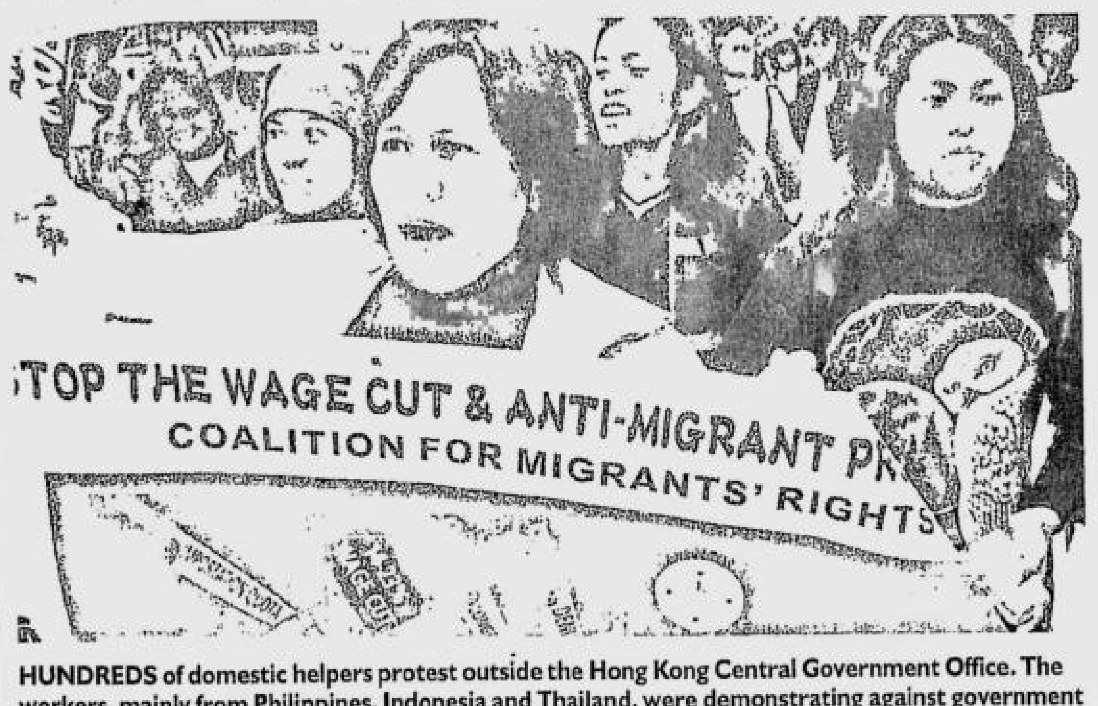
She draws inspiration from her past teachers and from her boss, Mrs. Merle Alferez, "who has always believed in me," and likewise from being appreciated by her students and getting compliments from them.

At the start of her career at MSA, Landicho thought she'd stay no more than two years. But, it was easy to fall in love with her job. She explains why: "There is plenty of support from management. I became part of a training program for teachers. I had undergone training myself. Moreover, I had a flexible schedule with better pay, and I knew I was part of management's long-term plans."

Landicho, by the way, hails from Nueva Ecija and is the eldest of seven children. Her father is a retired soldier and her mother, as mentioned earlier, is an accountant. She says her parents helped her develop as a teacher. Landicho has authored a textbook on trigonometry for high school and college. Released in January 2000, it is currently being used at different schools in Metro Manila. She says, "I wanted to write a book because books are meant to last."

With regards to her plans for the future, Landicho sees herself running an MSA branch one day-perhaps her own. But, admittedly, teaching will always be a part of her. In truth, she would like to go on teaching until she grows old.

MATH teacher Landicho PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO



STOP THE WAGE CUT & ANTI-MIGRANT P
COALITION FOR MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

HUNDREDS of domestic helpers protest outside the Hong Kong Central Government Office. The workers, mainly from Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, were demonstrating against government proposed wage cuts due to an economic slowdown. REUTERS

Your boss is ...

From page B14

do what they consider to be the right things but without clearing them with their boss. They expect that their good job or excellent performance will speak for itself. They rationalize, "As long as I do a good job, my job is my credentials. I don't have to play politics and be subservient to any one. I do what I believe to be right, never mind what my boss thinks and says."

Destructive behavior

Both behavior patterns are self-destructive. In the first, you destroy your self-respect, your dignity and self-worth. In the second, you destroy your career. The best behavior pattern is one characterized by a win-win relationship, which advances your work and career goals and your boss', and enables the organization to benefit from the relationship.

To have a win-win relationship, know your boss, his leadership style, his personality, his temperament, his needs, values and interests. You don't need to have access to the results of your boss' personality tests or leadership style to know him.

The quality and effectiveness of your relationship with your boss, in particular, and the management structure of the organizations, in general, are the key determinants of your overall success within the organization.

A management author, Andrew Du Brie, has this to say: "When you are caught up in the pressures of pursuing your own ambitions, it is easy to forget the primary reason you were hired: your prospective boss thought you could help accomplish the department's objectives [and] contribute directly or indirectly to his/her success."

Your boss' success in achieving the goals of his unit or department will impact on his own personal and career goals. Your challenge is to figure out how you can achieve your goals by helping your boss achieve his. *(To be continued next week.)*

(Ms. Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc., one of the leading career development consultancy firms in the country. Email feedback to carsys@qinet.net.*)*

Global survey reveals wide discrepancies in salary purchasing power

(LONDON)— WORLDWIDE, senior managers in Hong Kong, Switzerland and Ecuador are the best off financially, according to a new study by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

Purchasing power

Mercer examined the average salaries of senior managers in 50 countries worldwide, and calculated their purchasing power based on tax and social security deductions and the local cost of living. Its research showed that senior managers in Hong Kong score highest in the purchasing power rankings and can buy almost seven times more with their salaries than those in other countries. Switzerland and Ecuador follow in second and third place respectively.

Other top-scoring countries for managers' purchasing power include Germany and the USA, ranked 4 and 5, and the South American countries of Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela which take positions 6, 7 and 8 respectively.

At the other extreme, senior managers in India, Bulgaria and Vietnam, where salaries are comparatively low and taxes high, are the least financially well-off (ranked 48, 49 and 50).

Carlos Mestre, European Partner at Mercer, said: "It's wrong to assume that managers are well-off just because they are well paid, or worse off because they are paid less."

Lower cost of goods

The study found that managers in many South American countries - including Ecuador, Chile and Venezuela - can buy more with their comparatively low salaries than highly paid managers in the UK, France and Italy.

"Senior managers in the EU may earn some of the highest salaries in the world, but they also pay much higher taxes and social charges than those in many developing countries," said Mr Mestre.

In the EU, senior managers in Germany and the UK are the most prosperous, primarily due to their high salaries (rank 4 and 11). Meanwhile, those in Spain and Portugal (14 and 16) fare better than their Belgian and Italian counterparts (23 and 29) who pay 50 per cent and 45 per cent of their salaries in tax and social security charges respectively.

"While managers in the EU are among the highest paid, most households need double incomes to afford taxes and living costs, and maintain a comfortable standard of living," said Mr Mestre.

Worse off

Managers in Eastern European countries earn much less than those in the EU and appear much lower in the rankings. Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria rank 44, 45, 47 and 49 respectively.

However, Mr Mestre concluded: "Though managers in Eastern Europe and Asia/Pacific are worse-off because of their comparatively low pay, they have faster growing economies, and their earnings increase at two or three times the rate in Western countries."

Report

The study is based on the International Geographic Salary Differentials report which compares the pay of six position levels, from general laborers to senior managers. It compares each country to the 50 other countries included in the report and provides select domestic salary differentials for the United States, Canada and China. The report also presents tax rates and includes a purchasing power ratio analysis that evaluates how many times an employee can purchase an identical basket of goods and services.

Senior managers, as referred to in the press release, include heads of departments in large companies, heads of functions in smaller companies and upper level professionals.

Mercer Human Resource Consulting, one of the world's leading consulting organizations, helps organizations create measurable business results through their people.

JWT wins 18th PAC creative pitch

J. WALTER Thompson (JWT) recently won the creative agency pitch of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) with its concept Big Idea Generation.

Banking on the 18th PAC's theme for this year "What's the Big Idea?", the ad agency's winning concept was formally welcomed during the official launch of the PAC at Dish Restaurant in Powerplant Mall, Makati City recently.

The winning concept focused on the Filipino's ingenuity in every field of his endeavor as the driving force that would lead him to new breakthroughs.

"We believe it's high time that Filipinos feel and become proud of their natural genius and, therefore, be challenged to come up with more ideas for survival, growth and pride," JWT executive creative director Robert Labayen said.

In coming up with the concept, Labayen said his creative team first thought of giving the word "idea" a clearer and more concrete definition. The team then drew a more substantive meaning of ideation as inventiveness, which as related to a Filipino trait, translates his ability to solve problems by making unlikely connections between things. It is his being maabilidad, according to Labayen, that has enabled the Pinoy to make great strides in his everyday life by thinking ways to effectively overcome problems.

JWT also conducted extensive research on different Filipino inventions that have won global recognition, which inspired the creative team composed of creative director Cynthia Dayco and members Leo Gonzales, Ira Zabat and Shu Manalo to zero-in on Filipino inventiveness and creativity as the focal point of the concept of the Big Idea Generation.

"We want the campaign to be relevant to the public, altruistic in flavor, and the kind that would encourage Filipinos to believe in themselves," Labayen said.

18th PAC creative committee chair David Guerrero said JWT's straightforward and positive message was successful in showing how big ideas affect people's lives, thus making it relevant to people who are not in the advertising industry.

"JWT's concept was clear in expressing the aims of this year's Ad Congress: that by focusing on the 'Big Idea', the country's ad industry can become more competitive on a regional and global scale," Guerrero said.

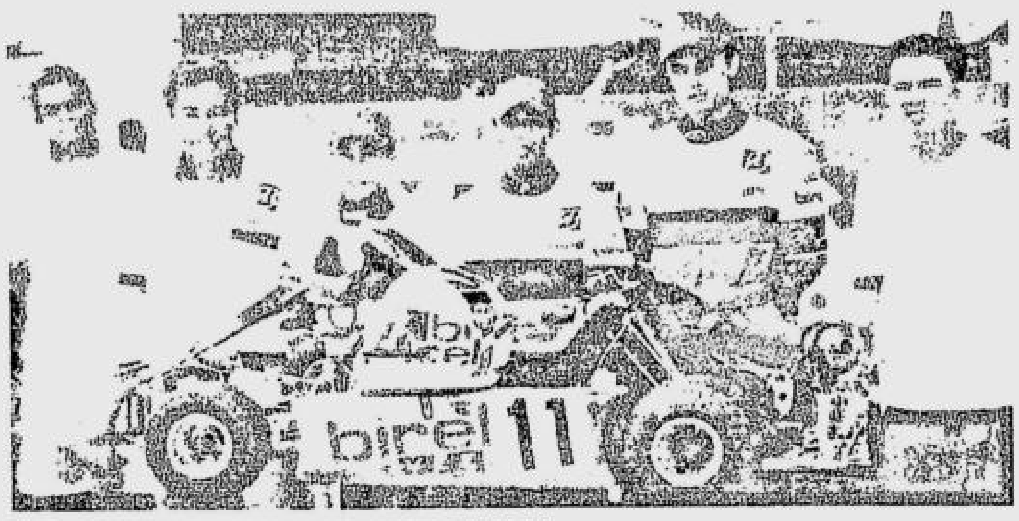
"JWT saw the opportunity to reach higher ground with the 'Big Idea' concept," he added.

Slated to run from Nov. 19 to 22 at Camp John Hay, Baguio City, the Ad Congress is the country's premier advertising event.

The 18 PAC is hosted by the media sector of the Advertising Board of the Philippines made up of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), the United Print Media Group (UPMG), the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), the Independent Blocktimers Association (IBA), and the Cinema Advertising Association of the Philippines (CAAP).

JOINING FORCES

Am-Europharma, a 100-percent Filipino-owned pharmaceutical company, strengthens its position in the industry by entering into a partnership with internationally recognized marketing group Diethelm Philippines Inc. Shown are (from left) Roderick Villanueva (general manager, Am-Europharma), Dr. Rod Villanueva (president, Am-Europharma), Juergen Wolfgang Hirschberg (president/general manager, Diethelm), and Larry Williams (operations vice president, Diethelm)



LIPOVITAN SPONSORS RACING TEAM

Lipovitan recently sponsored the Birel Go-Kart Racing Team at the qualifying races held May 17 at the Carmona track. Shown, from left, are Ernesto Villar, Ogie Villalon, Marlon Stockinger, Indy Villalon, Ezra Pages, and Philip Alvendia.

Mel Tiangco stars in first Shellane customer care campaign

SHELLANE launched June 18 its customer care campaign featuring veteran public service and broadcast media personality Mel Tiangco.

Launched at Annabelle's Restaurant in Tomas Morato, the campaign aptly titled "Shellane Customer Care" is the first customer care campaign with a celebrity endorser in Shell's history in the Philippines.

The campaign aims to make the public aware and vigilant about illegal LPG refilling and its possible hazards. It also educates the public how unauthorized LPG dealers and retail outlets rob the consumer of their hard earned money every time they sell under-filled LPG.

It is a very laudable social responsibility that Shell is taking on by launching this campaign. Shell is the industry leader. Thus, they should also lead in this kind of awareness building," exclaimed Tiangco when asked how she felt when she learned that Shell was leading the advocacy campaign.

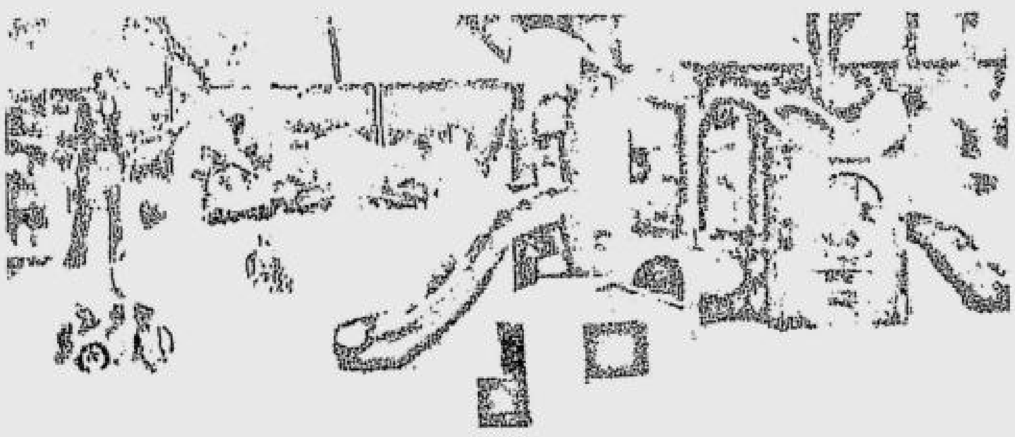
"This campaign is very relevant for the safety of the people. Secondly, we want to make sure that the common person who works an honest day will not be deceived into buying underfilled and unsafe LPG," she added.

The campaign, which consists of a series of TV and print advertisements that will be aired and published nationwide starting June 21, calls on Shellane customers to buy only from authorized Shellane retail outlets or order through Shellane Hatid Bahay.

The highlight of the campaign is the introduction of a nationwide toll-free customer care hotline (1-800-10-SHELLANE) that Shellane customers can call to check if their retail outlets are authorized to sell Shellane LPG.

"Through the toll-free hotline, our customers can get information on the nearest Shellane authorized retail outlet in their area. They can also be sure of the LPG quality and safety by ordering through Shellane Hatid Bahay, which is now available in key cities nationwide," says Shellane general manager Borhan Zainal.

Tiangco, known for her public service in the mass media industry, hosts the weekly top-rating talk show "Mel and Jay" and real-life television drama "Magpakailanman."



A SCHOOL IN A PARK

The first thing that distinguishes WorldPrep Learning Center from other preschools in Metro Manila is its lush and green playground. Children never tire playing here, enjoying their friends and learning through discovery. Mango and santol trees, plants, and flowers surround the area, which also has swings, slides, toy cars, and an aviary. WorldPrep gives pupils ample preparation for entrance tests to 'big schools' by equipping them with fundamental knowledge and skills in reading, math, language, and writing. Last year it was able to get its Kindergarten pupils into Ateneo, La Salle, Claret, Miriam, and Immaculate Conception Academy. For inquiries, visit WorldPrep at 149 B. Gonzales Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, or call 426-0029 and 30.

MOULINEX PARTNERS WITH CCA

Moulinex of France, a world-renowned brand of small kitchen appliances, recently announced and formalized its partnership with the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA), one of the country's premier cooking institutions, during the launch of the new Moulinex ad campaign at the C2 Restaurant of CCA. Shown sealing the agreement with a handshake are Moulinex business unit senior manager Lucero Ong (2nd from left), and CCA school director Christina Aquino (right). Looking on are Magic Spell Inc. president Philip de Belen (left) and Moulinex image model Mia Urquico (2nd from right). As Moulinex embarks on its new communications program titled 'Power for the Lady', CCA will be its perfect partner in strengthening Moulinex's platform and commitment of becoming the expert in cooking convenience and perfect kitchen partner for the modern woman. This tie-up kicked off during the event itself, where CCA's Chef Annali Mariano demonstrated the preparation of the day's luncheon using Moulinex's efficient food preparation products.

ECCP elects new directors, officers

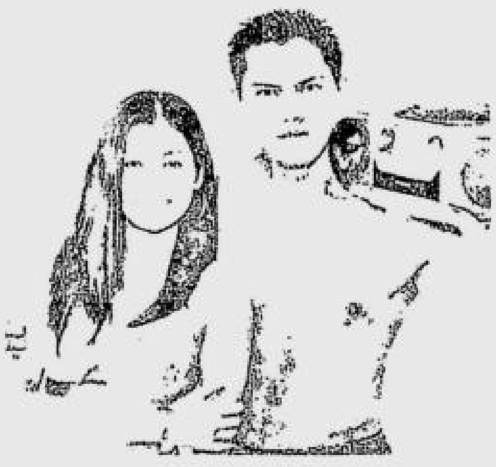
THE EUROPEAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) has recently elected a new set of board members and officers for 2003-2004.

Wliam Bailey (PriceWaterhouseCoopers) was reelected president of the Chamber, Nigel Lucas (Colliers International) was elected vice president, and Cyril Rocke (Finacore Finance Corp.) treasurer.

The ECCP is a service-oriented organization whose main goal is to foster close economic ties and business relations between the Philippines and Europe. ECCP accomplishes this by providing a wide range of consultancy services and by creating linkages between companies, organizations and individuals with existing or potential business interests in Europe and the Philippines.

The other newly elected board members are Hubert d'Aboville (Pamatec), Mark Gilbert (BMW), Herwig Gielen (Puratos), Juergen Hirschberg (Diethelm), Menardo Mateo (Philips), Michael Raeuber (DHL), Tapani Sairanen (Nokia) and Emilio Vicens (Union Fenoza).

One representative each from the British Chamber, the Spanish Chamber and the French Business Association Le Club are also participating in ECCP's monthly board meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

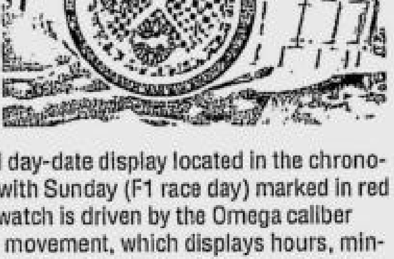


BORACAY WINNERS' CHOICE

Philips Consumer Electronics, Europe's number one consumer electronics company, recently presented Boracay Bodies Model Search 2003, the most-awaited modeling competition that featured the industry's freshest faces. This year's winners led by Mr and Miss Boracay Bodies Alexander Cenzon and Elaine Matawaran received Philips' RealFlat TVs and portable CD sound machines, as well as other great prizes.

Product Files

Omega Speedmaster salutes FI champ



OMEGA, one of the world's most prestigious Swiss timepieces, celebrates Michael Schumacher's historic 5th Formula 1 world championship title with the 2003 limited edition Speedmaster Day-Date Racing watch. The case is made in stainless steel and houses a dial dedicated to Formula 1-a chequered flag motif in the chronograph function's hour counter at 6:00 and special day-date display located in the chronograph minute counter at 12:00, with Sunday (F1 race day) marked in red and all other days in white. The watch is driven by the Omega caliber 1151 self-winding chronograph movement, which displays hours, minutes and continuous small seconds, day, date and month, as well as the chronograph functions of hours, minutes and central seconds. The movement has a power reserve of 44 hours and the watch is water-resistant to a depth of 30 meters, protected by a scratch-resistant sapphire crystal with anti-reflective treatment on the inside. Only 5,555 watches are available in this limited edition, with a stainless steel bracelet and "World Champion 2002" engraved in red on the case back, accompanied by Michael Schumacher's signature in black.

INEXPENSIVE MEDICINES FOR RP

Judy Raymundo (right), president of Ethical Pharma Inc. Philippines, which imports generic intravenous medicines, recently met with Bhujendra Sangani, director of the Ethical Pharmaceutical Company Pvt., Ltd. based in Mumbai, India to firm up plans for the introduction of inexpensive, high quality intravenous medicines in all hospitals in the country.

Clips

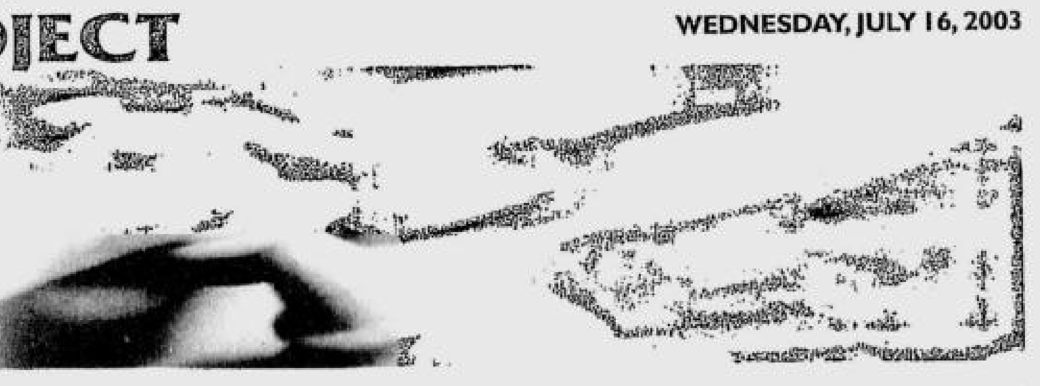
Cory speaks at joint meet

FORMER President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino will be the guest speaker on July 16 at 12 noon at the Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko during the joint meeting of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), Makati Business Club (MBC), Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), and the Investment House Association of the Philippines (Ihap). The topic of her talk is "Two Decades After Ninoy Quo Vadis, Filipino?"

Coping with grief

FOUR trained counselors will conduct a workshop on coping with grief from July 18 to 20 at the Alberione Oasis in Antipolo City. The counselors, who hold diplomas in family ministry and counseling, will help participants cast off the chains that keep their grief trapped within them. Roderick, one of the counselors at the Passing Through Grief Workshop, said they wanted to help participants resolve "the grief that shackles them that they may discover healthy grief to be a life-giving experience." Another counselor, Amy, whose son died while she was on vacation abroad, said, "The key lies in giving ourselves permission to grieve by coming out and sharing of ourselves." She said that it is all right to grieve. "For as we give ourselves permission, we hope that this time we will discover within us the necessary strength, the intensity of our courage and the flame of our hope." More information may be obtained by calling 647-1186 or 0917-4172774.

Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines



CPSP: 'Strategizing for Enterprise Success'

By Joel V. Nigos

THOUGH some companies still struggle to have a corporate planning department in their organization, corporate planning is no longer new.

A support unit in the company, it basically sorts out exercises of strengths and weaknesses of the enterprise, looks for opportunities and niches, does competitive analysis, and formulates recommendations to the company especially in the advent of technological developments.

Through these units, business organizations are able to make important decisions and adjustments based on the given analysis, take preventive measures, and are also able to position themselves in the current situation.

Realizing the importance of corporate planning and its impact to the country's economy as a whole, a small group of dedicated economists and corporate planners formed the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines (CPSP) in 1983.

CPSP/B9

Messages

I EXTEND my warmest congratulations to the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines (CPSP) as you hold your 20th Anniversary and CORPLAN 2003 Convention with the theme, "Strategizing Enterprise Success."

You have accomplished much in providing astute business strategies to address the ambitions and challenges of the Philippine industry, and thus have contributed greatly to the realization of our country's development programs. Through your unparalleled creativity and keen business acumen, you helped build investor confidence in the Philippine market, which in turn, underpinned our 4.5 percent GDP growth.

Continue to be an invaluable ally in nation building through your proactive participation. By ensuring a vibrant business environment, you help fast-track economic development, our guarantee of prosperity and stability.

Again, congratulations and may you have a truly fruitful convention!

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

ALLOW me to extend my warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines on the occasion of its 20th founding anniversary.

Since 1983 the CPSP has dedicated itself to the building of a growing community of strategic thinkers and corporate planners - individuals who continue to play key roles in our country's academic, economic and business development.

Your convention theme this year - "Strategizing for Enterprise Success" speaks well of the programs on long-range thinking, resource allocation and technology applications the organizations adheres to in its objective to get only the best results for all its undertakings.

Mabuhay and more power!

HON. ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary, Department of Finance

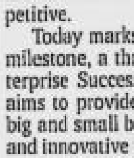
I CONGRATULATE the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines for its 20 years of service to business and government. As the national organization of corporate planners, CPSP has been the leading forum for knowledge exchange on the latest corplan tools, strategy solutions and the best planning practices.

Knowledge exchange is a practice that must be encourage at all levels of the organization - whether private or public, especially as a mechanism to boost productivity and generate income especially among the less endowed in our society. I ask the CPSP to strongly advocate knowledge networking as a means of combining our knowledge and skills in pursuit of national development objectives.

While sound business strategies are at the core of all successful and competitive enterprises, reforms at the microeconomic level form the foundation for sustained Philippine economic growth. Let us work together to achieve these reforms and attain the higher levels of productivity we have always sought.

Keep up the good work and we wish you the best.

ROMULO L. NERI
Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and
NEDA Director General



THE YEAR 1983 was the emergence of the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines. The CPSP is a professional organization composed of dedicated corporate planning practitioners and economists bound by a common vision and goal: doing business by bringing out the best in cutting edge strategic corporate planning practices among the private and public sectors as well as the academe.

Through the years, the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines, continues to effectively and efficiently develop planning programs as well as reinforce its capability to conduct business forums, seminars and workshops, and general membership meetings - are all with the end objective of being globally competitive.

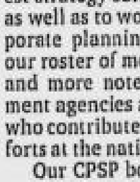
Today marks CPSP's 20th year. To herald another milestone, a three-in-one event "Strategizing for Enterprise Success" takes place today. The convention aims to provide and equip corporate planners, both big and small business, effective planning techniques and innovative ideas.

As the government strives to maintain economic momentum and alleviate poverty in our land, the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines, on the other hand, re-affirms its commitment to handle the economic challenges by intensifying its efforts to effect changes leading to national progress.

While there have been noted economic gains, there is still much more to be done.

As we celebrate our 20th year, the Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines looks forward and will strive even harder to being a vital partner in the country's path to recovery.

Ramon B. Santos
2003 President



THE CORPORATE Planning Society of the Philippines (CPSP) comes full circle this year as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary as the national organization of corporate planners. Faced with economic and business conditions that are just as challenging and volatile as that in our inaugural year, corporate planning has become indispensable for enterprise-wide decision making. Since 1983, CPSP has endeavored to fulfill its founding mission to be a leading forum for knowledge exchange in the latest strategy solutions and best planning practices as well as to work for the advancement of the corporate planning profession. Through the years, our roster of members has grown to include more and more noted academics, officials of government agencies and corporate planning executives who contribute to planning and developmental efforts at the national and private sector levels.

Our CPSP board, members and past-presidents welcome you to our 2nd Convention with the theme: "Strategizing for Enterprise Success." We enjoin you to participate and be enriched by the collective efforts and experience of authorities in the strategic planning process and practice, education, electronic business, media and socio-economic research.

Thank you for your unstinting support.

Lidro C. Valera
2003 Convention Chairman

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CPSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS
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CPSP: 'Strategizing for Enterprise Success'

From page B8

Dr. Emmanuel T. Velasco, who was president of CPSP from 1983-86, can't help but look back to the formative years of the organization, considered as the most frenzied and tumultuous years in the country's history.

"It was a period of uncertainty," recalls Velasco. "I think that was the key to establishment of the organization."

Velasco remembers that in the early '80s and even during the prior years, corporate planners usually do planning on their own based on data or statistics gathered by their respective companies.

Most often, these data when compared are extremes - either too high or too low - which makes planning much more difficult," Velasco says.

He adds that the banking industry, which initially composed the bulk of membership of the CPSP, is most sensitive to external developments thereby are the most affected. Foreign exchange assumptions, inflation rate, interest rate, GDP or GNP forecasts have to be as accurate as possible.

The consumer industry also saw the need for more precise data. Production figures depend on the available statistics gathered by the companies. They know that more realistic numbers could result to better decision-making.

CPSP was able to provide this, which after much consensus-building participated by member-companies, was able to come up with more realistic data," says Velasco.

Though the corporate planning professionals' main motivation was to address the problems of companies during those times, corporate planners also wanted to be recognized as professionals doing a very vital role in the pursuit of their companies' objectives. This also inspired them in the formation of the CPSP.

Today, the CPSP continues to adhere to be a leading professional organization committed to the advancement of strategic thinking and corporate planning practice geared toward the enhancement of the global competitiveness of the Philippines and the quality of life of the Filipino.

This is through the access to a body of knowledge and professional network, the promotion and advancement of the use of strategic planning tools and techniques, participation in national planning efforts and the sharing of technologies with the government, the academe and other organizations.

In the long run, this helps contribute to the greater realization of the country's business development programs.

Indeed, the CPSP was able to stand up to the challenges of the times. And what started as a handful of committed economists and corporate planning practitioners, it has now evolved into a progressive and thriving organization of corporate planners propagating planning as a vital and useful management tool for business, big or small.

CPSP
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Dean, John Gokongwei School of Management
Ateneo de Manila University

Nestor P. Bonoan
Chairman of the Board
Better Than Ice Cream

Benito A. Bernardo, Jr.
Year 2002
Vice President, Corporate Affairs
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation

Fernando Martinez
Year 2001
Chairman and CEO
Eastern Petroleum Corporation

Portia Sto. Domingo
Year 2000
Vice President, Corporate Planning & Communications Group
PHILAMLIFE GROUP

Pamela Ann da Silva
Year 1999
Asst. Vice President, Management Services Group
SMC-Purefoods

Renato T. Goco
Year 1998

Elbert M. Zosa
Year 1997

Bernadette T. Ratcliffe
Year 1996
First Vice-President - MIS & Risk Management Dept.
Planters Development Bank

Liwayway Gener
Year 1995
Executive Vice-President, Pacific Plans and YGC Corporate Services
Yuchengco Group of Companies

Marceline F. Clemente
Year 1994
President/Managing Director
Cordym Tours and Travel, Inc. and Cordym Philippines, Inc.

Ma. Belen C. Buensuceso
Year 1993
Senior Vice-President & Corporate Planning Director
San Miguel Corporation

Rosalinda De la Paz Magat
Year 1992
Senior Vice-President/Chief Risk Officer
Development Bank of the Philippines

Eugenio P. Ladrido
Year 1991
Professional Business Consultant

Winifrida M. Constantino
Year 1990
Professional Business Consultant

Alexander C. Escucha
Year 1989
First Vice-President, Strategic Planning
Chinabanking Corporation

Franciso E. Josef
Year 1988
Professional Business Consultant

Godofredo Juliano
Year 1987

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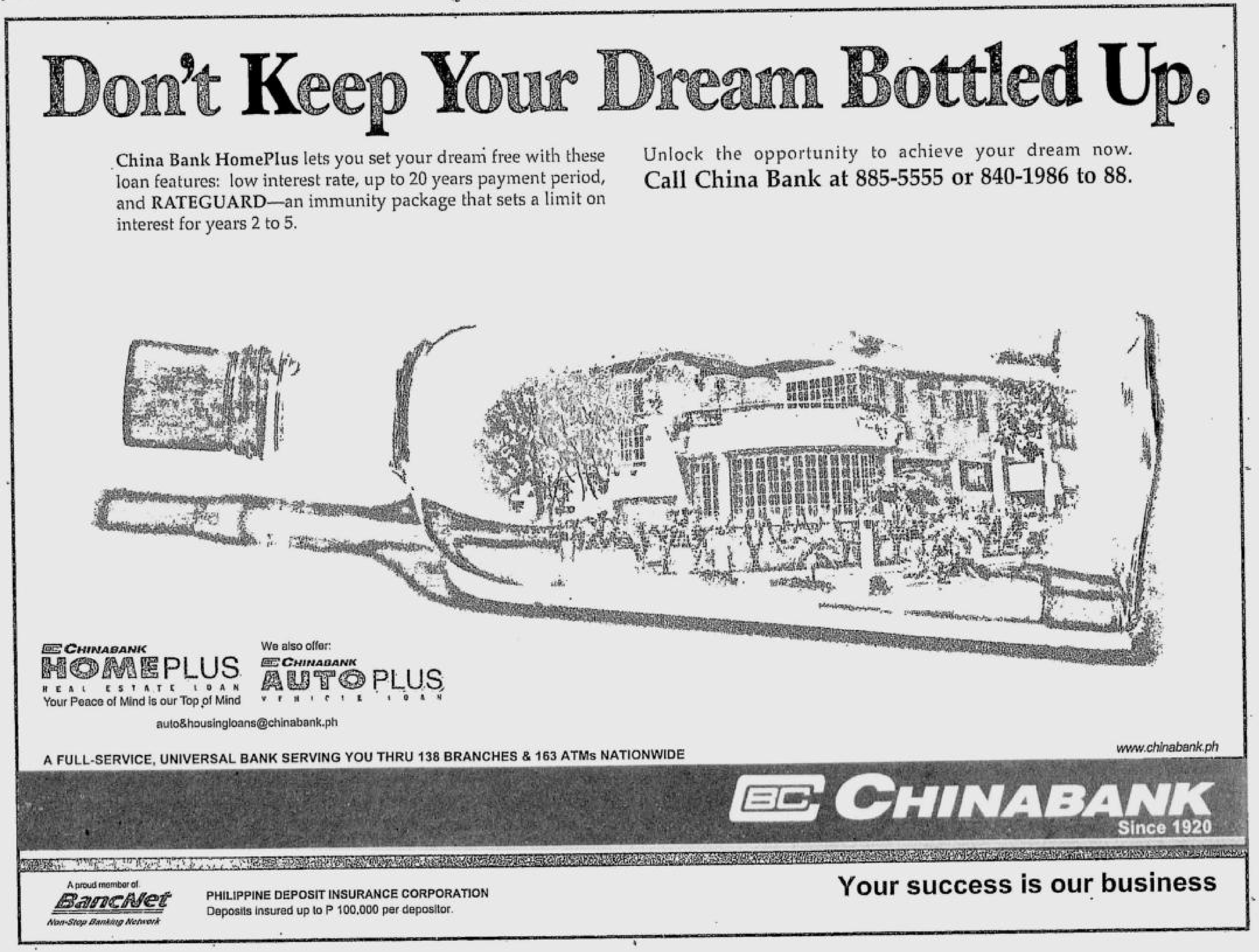

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Renato T. Goco
Year 1998

Elbert M. Zosa
Year 1997

Bernadette T. Ratcliffe
Year 1996
First Vice-President - MIS & Risk Management Dept.
Planters Development Bank

Liwayway Gener
Year 1995
Executive Vice-President, Pacific Plans and YGC Corporate Services
Yuchengco Group of Companies

Marceline F. Clemente
Year 1994
President/Managing Director
Cordym Tours and Travel, Inc. and Cordym Philippines, Inc.

Ma. Belen C. Buensuceso
Year 1993
Senior Vice-President & Corporate Planning Director
San Miguel Corporation

Rosalinda De la Paz Magat
Year 1992
Senior Vice-President/Chief Risk Officer
Development Bank of the Philippines

Eugenio P. Ladrido
Year 1991
Professional Business Consultant

Winifrida M. Constantino
Year 1990
Professional Business Consultant

Alexander C. Escucha
Year 1989
First Vice-President, Strategic Planning
Chinabanking Corporation

Francisco E. Josef
Year 1988
Professional Business Consultant

Godofredo Juliano
Year 1987

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Plantersbank joins in the celebration of SME Week: July 21-25, 2003
Maraming Pera sa SME, Maraming Tulong sa SME.

Program of Activities

2003 CPSP Convention & 20th Year Anniversary Celebration

Topic : "Thinkers' Summit : Strategizing for Enterprise Success in the New Millennium"

July 17, 2003, New World Renaissance Hotel

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Invocation Ma. Belen C. Buensuceso SVP - San Miguel Corporation

8:40 a.m. National Anthem Irish Joy C. Lopez CPSP Administrative Assistant

9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks Ramon B. Santos VP - Planters Products, Inc.CPSP President & Chairman for Strategic Partnerships

9:20 a.m. Opening of Exhibits Host: Imelda C. Alcantara Manager - Philippine Daily Inquirer CPSP Corporate Secretary and Chairperson-Customer Relations & Membership

9:40 a.m. Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. "Corporate Planning: Then and Now" Host: Enrico L. Cordoba Senior Manager - Insular Life Assurance Co. Inc. CPSP Director and Chairman for Education & Research Moderator: Alexander C. Escucha FVP - China Banking Corporation Panelists: Emmanuel T. Velasco Former Dean - Ateneo Graduate School of Business Mario G. Lopez Professor - Asian Institute of Management Rafael A. Rodriguez VP for Development - UP Diliman Winifrida M. Constantino Management Consultant - Integrated Management Solutions Marceline F. ClementeP resident & Managing Director - Cordym Travel, Inc. Benito A. Bernardo, Jr. Executive Director - Pilipinas Shell Foundation

11:45 a.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. 20th Anniversary Awarding Ceremony Hosts: Ramon B. SantosVP - Planters Products, Inc. CPSP President & Chairman for Strategic Partnerships Lauro C. Valera Deputy Senior Manager - China Bank CPSP Vice-President & 2003 Convention Chairperson Edith D. Dychiao VP - Banco de Oro Universal Bank CPSP Director & Co-Chairperson for Customer Relations & Membership

2:00 p.m. "Sustaining Philippine Competitiveness" Speaker: Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas Dean - School of Economics & Director - University of Asia & the Pacific

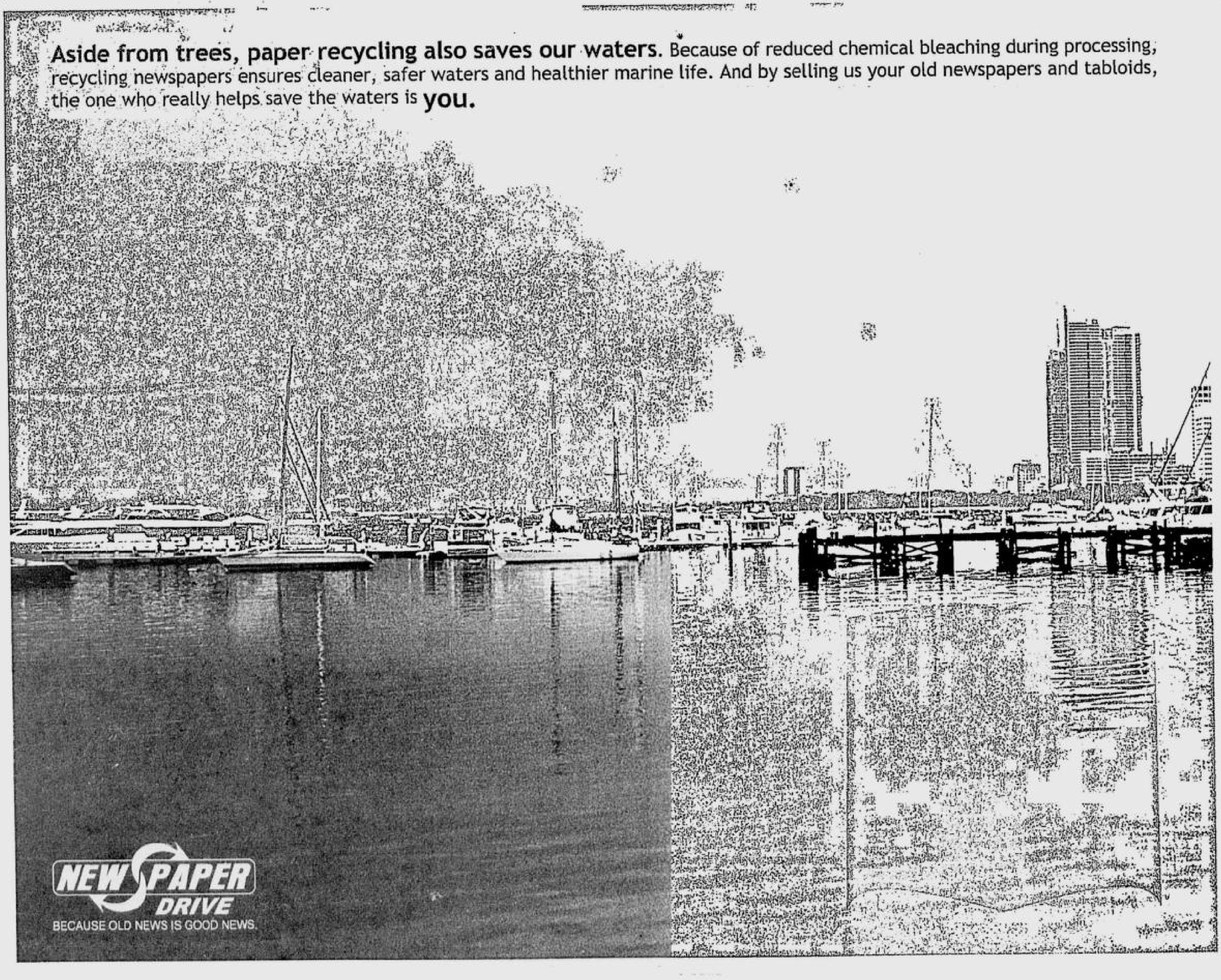
2:45 p.m. "Strategic Planning in Media Organizations"
Speaker: Alexandra P. Romualdez President - Philippine Daily Inquirer

3:30 p.m. Coffee Break

3:50 p.m. "E-Business Post 9-11, Post Dot Com Crash Environment" Speaker:
from IBM Philippines

4:40 p.m. Open Forum Host: Mylene M. Santos Sustainable Development, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation CPSP Treasurer

5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks Lauro C. Valera Deputy Senior Manager - China Bank CPSP Vice-President & 2003 Convention Chairperson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CEBU: FEP Printing Press , Warehouse #1, Menzi Compound National Highway, Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City, Tel. no. (032) 340-7970 to 71, Contact person: Lenny Brua
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AMD-JB-36	No. 428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City	2 adjoining residential lots, total area of 253.70 m² with 4-door 2-storey apartment.	P 2,219,000.00
AMD-ED-37	INA Executive Homes I, Levitown Estate Subd., Don Bosco, Parañaque City	190 m² residential lot (TCT No. 144520) with bldg. & imprvts.	P 1,176,700.00
AMD-MR-38	1304 Int. M. Naval St., Navotas	338 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. C - 300082) with factory bldg. & imprvts.	P 544,180.00
LEG-JG2	Moon St., Zabarte, Caloocan City	100 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 346198)	P 350,000.00
ALBAY			
LEG-CSD	Bagacay, Legaspi City	35.1762 has. & 3.6622 has. fishponds (TCT Nos. 23199 & 512, respectively) with imprvts.	P 6,763,200.00
BATANGAS			
LIP-LAO-02	Bgy. Luntal, Tuy	2 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-94455 & T-94456) total area of 9,312 m² with bldg. & imprvts.	P 15,697,000.00
LIP-LAO-03	Bgy. Dagatan, Lipa	9,312 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 132773)	P 7,915,200.00
BULACAN			
LRD-157a	Brgy. Maasim, San Rafael	2,026 m² residential/commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-167138, T-167144 & T-167145) with bldgs. & imprvts.	P 16,338,600.00
LRD-157b	Carlos St., San Jose, Baliuag	200 m² commercial lot (TCT No. T-167135) with bldgs. & imprvts.	P 2,386,700.00
LRD-157c	San Roque, Baliuag	4,064 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-167136)	P 2,032,000.00
LRD-157d	Brgy. Maasim, San Rafael	1,224 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-167137)	P 2,001,000.00
CSP-01	Bo. Palimbang, Calumpit	890 m² int. residential lot (TCT No. T-182779) with factory/warehouse & office bldg.	P 2,050,000.00
CEBU			
CBU-01	Leased lot at Mactan Economic Zone, Lapulapu City	One (1) lot bldg. and imprvts.(1,205 m²), air separation/gas plant machinery and eqpt., office furnitures, 4-trucks/vans & 1-motorcycle	P 63,435,900.00
ILIGAN			
AMD-JB-39a	Mahayhay, Iligan City	1,612 m² interior lot (TCT No.T-57,198 a.f.) with residential and apartment bldgs. & imprvts.	P 4,689,600.00
AMD-JB-39b	Mahayhay, Iligan City	1,150 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-57,199 a.f.)	P 3,102,500.00
PAMPANGA			
AMD-MR-40a	Dolores Heights, Dolores, San Fernando	402 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481055-R)	P 1,447,200.00
AMD-MR-40b		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481054-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40c		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481053-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40d		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481052-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40e		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481051-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40f	Don Bonifacio Subd., Balibago, Angeles City	356 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114588)	P 142,400.00
AMD-MR-40g		356 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114589)	P 142,400.00
AMD-MR-40i		300 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114590)	P 120,000.00
RIZAL			
BAL-1	Bo. Colaigue, Antipolo City	1,236 m² residential lot (TCT No. R-3760)	P 6,768,000.00
BAL-2	Bo. Colaigue, Antipolo City	1,057 m² residential lot (TCT No. R-3761)	P 6,342,000.00
BAL-3	Bgy. Muzon, Angono	308 m² residential lot (TCT No. 663784)	P 1,540,000.00
SUR-01	606 6th St., San Martin Subd., Bo. Muzon, Angono.	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. 660748) with bldg. & imprvts.	P 865,600.00
ZAMBALES			
AMD-JB-41	Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz	6,639 m² vacant agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-53665)	P 2,159,700.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AMD-MR-41b	Ozamiz Manabay Cmpd., Bo. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	Various transportation, handling, shop maintenance & weighing equipment	P 41,040.00 to 218,700.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2144/3404 for Code starting with AMD;
(052)820-1348 or 818-9511 loc. 1423 for LEG;
(043)757-2465 or 818-9511 loc. 1429 for LIP;
(044)662-1510/892-3838 or 8189511 loc. 1409/2128 for LRD;
926-1666 or 818-9511 loc. 1411 for CSP;
(032)256-6310 or 818-9511 loc. 1442 for CBU;
(047)237-3589 or 818-9511 loc. 1434 for BAL; and
(086)826-0289 or 818-9511 loc. 1486 for SUR.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI–July 16, 2003)

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MALE/FEMALE

DIRECT HIRE 4381519 KAZ

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 5280730 589-9958

Mktg Staff 09192535623 Denise

Mngt Staff 09186532375

•Ofc Mktng Staff w/ w/o exp •18-45y/o Start asap Look for Mr. Uy 9168371

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URGENT JOB! Earn 30T UP Philam Seminar. CALL Bob Cadag 7429447 09196961980

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INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS & WOFEX 2003 WORLD'S FOOD EXPO
August 6 - 9, 2003 • World Trade Center, Metro Manila

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and World's Food Expo 2003 are working together to come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services in the food and beverage industry.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the World's Food Expo and the country's growing food industry. This will definitely be the reference of choice

WORLD'S FOOD EXPO SUPPLEMENT

The supplement is scheduled for release on August 6, 2003 in line with the opening of WOFEX 2003. In line with this, we are providing you with the following very special advertising rates :

FULL PAGE AD (23cm x 30cm)	=	P 51,096.00
HALF PAGE AD (23cm x 15cm)		P 25,350.00
QUARTER PAGE (11.5cm x 15cm)	=	P 15,620.00

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ADVERTISING CONTRACT

Yes, we agree to place a ________ page ad in the World's Food Expo Supplement in the amount of P________.00. We also agree to submit the ad material in TIF, EPS or JPEG format no later than July 25, 2003.

Name ______________________ Company ______________________
Position ______________ Address ______________________
______________ Tel. No. ______________ Fax No. ______________
Email ______________ Website ______________ Signature ______________

CONTACT INFORMATION

Premier Events Plus Group, Inc.
Unit 203 Golden Legacy Bldg., 98 Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Tel. (632) 4364711/12, 9297963/93 Fax: 4364898 Email: info@PEPGroup.com Website: www.PEPGroup.com

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
COMMITTEE ON HALLS OF JUSTICE
INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites prospective bidders to pre-qualify and participate in the public bidding to be conducted pursuant to Executive Order No. 40 and other applicable issuances for the provision of JANITORIAL and SECURITY SERVICES for the Halls of Justice for the period 01 October 2003 to 30 September 2004, located at:

CLUSTER I (ILOCOS/CAR)

1. AGOO, LA UNION
2. ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN
3. ASINGAN, PANGASINAN
4. BAGUIO CITY
5. BANGUED, ABRA
6. BANGUI, ILOCOS NORTE
7. BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE
8. BAUANG, LA UNION
9. BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE
10. BURGOS, PANGASINAN
11. CANDON, ILOCOS SUR
12. DAGUPAN, PANGASINAN
13. DINGRAS, ILOCOS NORTE
14. ESPIRITU (BANNA), ILOCOS NORTE
15. LAOAG, ILOCOS NORTE
16. LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET
17. LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN
18. NARVACAN, ILOCOS SUR
19. PAOAY, ILOCOS NORTE
20. ROSALES, PANGASINAN
21. SAN CARLOS, PANGASINAN
22. SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN
23. SAN FERNANDO CITY
24. SAN JACINTO, PANGASINAN
25. TAYUG, PANGASINAN
26. UMINGAN, PANGASINAN
27. URDANETA, PANGASINAN
28. VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR
29. VILLASIS, PANGASINAN
30. VINTAR, ILOCOS NORTE

CLUSTER II (CAGAYAN VALLEY/CAR)

1. ANGADANAN, ISABELA
2. APPARI, CAGAYAN
3. BALLESTEROS, CAGAYAN
4. BASCO, BATANES
5. CABAGAN, ISABELA
6. CABARROQUIS, QUIRINO
7. DIFFUN, QUIRINO
8. GATTARAN, CAGAYAN
9. ILAGAN, ISABELA
10. LUNA, APAYAO
11. MADELLA, QUIRINO
12. PIAT, CAGAYAN
13. SANTIAGO CITY, ISABELA
14. STA. TERESITA, CAGAYAN
15. TABUK, KALINGA
16. TUAO, CAGAYAN
17. TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN

CLUSTER IV (SOUTHERN TAGALOG)

1. ALITAGTAG, BATANGAS
2. BACOOR, CAVITE
3. BALAYAN, BATANGAS
4. BALER, AURORA
5. BATANGAS CITY
6. BIÑAN, LAGUNA
7. BINANGONAN, RIZAL
8. BOAC, MARINDUQUE
9. BUENAVISTA, MARINDUQUE
10. CANODIOCAN, ROMBLON
11. CALAMBA, LAGUNA
12. CALAUAG, QUEZON
13. CAVITE CITY
14. CORCUERA, ROMBLON
15. GASAN, MARINDUQUE
16. GUMACA, QUEZON
17. IMUS, CAVITE
18. LIPA CITY, BATANGAS
19. LOOC, ROMBLON
20. LOPEZ, QUEZON
21. LUCENA CITY, QUEZON
22. MORONG, RIZAL
23. NAIC, CAVITE
24. NASUGBU, BATANGAS
25. ODIONGAN, ROMBLON
26. PINAMALAYAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO
27. PUERTO PRINCESA CITY
28. ROMBLON, ROMBLON
29. ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO
30. ROSARIO, BATANGAS
31. SAN AGUSTIN, ROMBLON
32. SAN ANDRES, ROMBLON
33. SAN MATEO, RIZAL
34. SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA
35. SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA
36. TANAUAN, BATANGAS
37. TUY, BATANGAS

CLUSTER V (BICOL)

1. AROROY, MASBATE
2. BAAO, CAMARINES SUR
3. DAET, CAMARINES NORTE
4. GUBAT, SORSOGON
5. IRIGA, CAMARINES NORTE
6. LEGAZPI CITY
7. LIBMANAN, CAMARINES SUR
8. LIGAO, ALBAY
9. MANDAON, MASBATE
10. NABUA, CAMARINES SUR
11. NAGA CITY
12. SAN JOSE, CAMARINES SUR
13. SORSOGON, SORSOGON
14. TABACO, ALBAY
15. TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR
16. VIRAC, CATANDUANES

CLUSTER VII (CENTRAL VISAYAS)

1. BAIS CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
2. CEBU CITY
3. CARMEN, BOHOL
4. DUMAGUETE CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL
5. GUINDULMAN, BOHOL
6. LAPU-LAPU CITY
7. LOAY, BOHOL
8. MANDAUE CITY
9. TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL
10. TALIBON, BOHOL
11. TUBIGON, BOHOL

CLUSTER VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)

1. ABUYOG, LEYTE
2. ALLEN, N. SAMAR
3. BARUGO, LEYTE
4. BAYBAY, LEYTE
5. BORONGAN, E. SAMAR
6. BURAUEN, LEYTE
7. CALBAYOG CITY, W. SAMAR
8. CALUBIAN, LEYTE
9. CARIGARA, LEYTE
10. CATBALOGAN, W. SAMAR
11. CATARMAN, N. SAMAR
12. LA PAZ, LEYTE
13. LAOANG, N. SAMAR
14. MAASIN, S. LEYTE
15. ORAS, E. SAMAR
16. ORMOC CITY
17. PALOMPON, LEYTE
18. SAN JUAN, S. LEYTE
19. SOGOD, S. LEYTE
20. TACLOBAN CITY

CLUSTER IX (WESTERN MINDANAO)

1. AURORA, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
2. DIPOLOG CITY
3. IPIL, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
4. ISABELA, BASILAN
5. JOLO, SULU
6. LABANGAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
7. MOLAVE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
8. PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
9. SINDANGAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
10. SIOCO, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
11. TAMBULIG, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
12. ZAMBOANGA CITY

CLUSTER XI (SOUTHERN MINDANAO)

1. ALABEL, SARANGANI
2. BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR
3. BAROBO, SURIGAO DEL SUR
4. BISLIG, SURIGAO DEL SUR
5. CANTILLAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR
6. DAVAO CITY, DAVAO DEL SUR
7. GENERAL SANTOS, S. COTABATO
8. HINATUAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR
9. KORONADAL, S. COTABATO
10. LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR
11. MALINTA, DAVAO DEL SUR
12. MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL
13. PANABO, DAVAO DEL NORTE
14. POLOMOLOK, SOUTH COTABATO
15. STO. TOMAS, DAVAO DEL NORTE
16. SURALLAH, SOUTH COTABATO
17. TAGO, SURIGAO DEL SUR
18. TAGUM CITY, DAVAO DEL NORTE
19. TANDAG, SURIGAO DEL SUR

CLUSTER XII (CENTRAL MINDANAO)

1. ILIGAN CITY, LANAO DEL NORTE
2. ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT
3. KABACAN, NORTH COTABATO
4. KIDAPAWAN, NORTH COTABATO
5. MARAWI CITY, LANAO DEL SUR

CLUSTER XIII (NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION)

1. MALABON
2. MANDALUYONG CITY
3. MANILA (MeTC) GSIS BLDG.
4. MANILA (MeTC) MWSS BLDG.
5. MARIKINA CITY
6. PASAY CITY
7. PASIG CITY (MeTC)
8. PASIG CITY (RTC & DOJ)
9. QUEZON CITY

The approved budget for the clusters are as follows:

	JANITORIAL	SECURITY
Cluster I	6,997,638.47	16,508,950.40
Cluster II	2,087,702.30	7,308,789.36
Cluster IV	7,392,400.07	21,225,933.80
Cluster V	4,643,839.69	10,286,405.20
Cluster VII	3,900,588.45	5,832,266.41
Cluster VIII	2,977,770.80	8,848,361.62
Cluster IX	2,410,144.78	5,632,319.26
Cluster XI	2,795,911.62	8,294,025.04
Cluster XII	1,031,140.68	2,709,174.65
Cluster XIII (NCR)	8,917,578.94	14,717,145.96
TOTAL	P43,154,715.80	P101,363,371.70

The prospective bidder's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on his net working capital must at least be equal to the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Prospective bidders shall indicate the cluster they intend to bid for. Those bidding for more than one cluster shall file separate prequalification forms/bids for each cluster.

Prospective bidders may secure pre qualification requirements from Mr. Joey V. Yabut or Ms. Levien M. Lim, Halls of Justice Secretariat, 7/F, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila from **July 10 to 22, 2003** between 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pre-qualification requirements will be furnished the prospective bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 for each Cluster they intend to bid for.

1. SUBMISSION OF PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the authorized representatives as follows:

a. For JANITORIAL SERVICES — on **29 July 2003**, 9:00 a.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC;
b. For SECURITY SERVICES — on **30 July 2003**, 9:00 a.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC.

The Committee on Halls of Justice shall evaluate the pre-qualification requirements on the respective scheduled dates of submission.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference for JANITORIAL and SECURITY services shall be on **13 August 2003**, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., respectively at the Old Session Hall, SC.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders for janitorial and security services who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives:

a. For JANITORIAL SERVICES — on **1 September 2003**, at 1:30 p.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC;
b. For SECURITY SERVICES — on **2 September 2003** at 1:30 p.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to the Court or waive any defect or informality therein.

8 July 2003

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA ANCHETA-SORIANO**
Working Chairperson
Committee on Halls of Justice

(PDI – July 9 & 16, 2003)

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DOMINGO MAGAT NUQUI

of Macabebe, Pampanga

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 15, 2003 at the age of 98.

His bereaved children **Paciencia, Emiliana, Ricardo, Herminia** and **Elpidio**; his children-in-law, **Arsenio Yabut, Rubendario Castro, Leima Luistro** and **Asuncion Coronel**; his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Sto. Rosario, Macabebe, Pampanga. Interment will take place in Macabebe immediately after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 20, 2003.

DRA. ROBERTA VENADAS HERNANDEZ

UP College of Medicine Class '43
and former Assistant Director, DOH (Region II)

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 14, 2003 at the age of 82.

Her beloved husband Manuel (†); children Marc and Del, Nilo and Angie, Agnes and Ian, Belen and Kay, Ben and Tess, Bobby and Zay, Paul and Eva; brother Tony; sister Baby (†). Lulu, Connie, Rosing and Cora; in-laws, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Sunday, July 20 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

BRO. JAMES P. DUNNE, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Monday, 14 July 2003

Wake: Ateneo de Manila High School Chapel,
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 P.M.

Funeral Mass: at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, 19 July
in the Church of the Gesù, Ateneo de Manila University

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C.,
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

In Memory of
Our Beloved Mother

Cresida "Frida" Canlas Tueres

On her fifth death anniversary
This July 16, 2003

Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish	Green Meadows/ E. Rodriguez, Q.C.	6:00 pm
Sanctuario de San Antonio	Dasmariñas Village, Makati	6:00 pm
Sanctuario de San Jose	Greenhills	6:00 pm
St. Paul the Apostle Parish	Panay Ave., Q.C.	6:00 pm
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish	New Manila, Q.C.	4:00 pm 6:00 pm

---

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."
I Corinthians 2:9

In Loving Memory
On the Thirteenth Death Anniversary of

MA. LIZA L. ISIDRO

Sept. 21, 1964 – July 16, 1990

of the USAID who died in the Baguio City Earthquake.

Pious readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

MOMMY ZENIE & FAMILY

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
- MESSAGE OF THANKS
- DEATH ANNIVERSARY
- REQUIEMS

IN LOVING MEMORY
of the
First Death Anniversary
of

MSGR. PETER TSAO, SVD

June 30, 1921 – July 17, 2002

Masses will be offered
at St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine
on July 17, 2003. The schedules
are as follows:

6:00 AM
7:00 AM
**8:00 AM*
12:00 NN
5:00 PM
6:15 PM
7:15 PM

Offering of candles and flowers follow
at Christ the King Seminary
right after the 8:00 AM Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for one year supply of selected housing construction materials for the NHA-Cabuyao Resettlement Project located in Cabuyao, Laguna. The contract duration shall be for a period of one year renewable upon agreement. The supplier must have had similar contract costing at least 50% of the Approved Budget.

The schedules of eligibility screening and bidding activities are as follows:

Issuance of Application of Eligibility Forms	July 18 - Aug. 1, 2003
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 6, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	August 6-13, 2003
Pre-bid Conference	August 14, 2003
Dropping of Bids/Opening of Bids	August 20, 2003
Approved Budget	P20.00 M.

A. Interested suppliers are required to secure from the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City the list of basic requirements for registration and Eligibility Statement Forms. Only suppliers duly registered with the NHA shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of letter of intent on July 31, 2003.
B. Eligibility requirement forms may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 at the NHA-BAC Secretariat Office with Tel. Nos. 929-6016 and 928-4561/65 local 262.
C. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.
D. Bid security/deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only.
E. The provisions of the IRR of EO 40 shall govern all particulars relative to registration, eligibility screening, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.
F. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 16 & 21, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

1. The Government of the Philippines has received loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payment under the contract for which this invitation for Bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now requests price quotations for printing and reproduction of the following IEC materials:

Item	Quantity	Unit
1. Mother's Card	5,500,000	copies
2. IMCH Manual	800	copies
3. IPI Basic Skills Module	2,500	copies
4. Recording Forms (2 wks-2 mos old)	1,100,000	copies
5. Recording Forms (2 wks-5 yrs old)	4,300,000	copies

3. International Shopping procedures will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila from **18 July to 13 August 2003** between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidders at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) or ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$150.00), including mail fee for foreign suppliers. The method of payment may be cash or bank draft. If payment is in form of bank draft, the check should be for the account of the Department of Health. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Quotations must be delivered at HHRDB Conference Room, Building 12A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila at or before 9:00 AM on **14 August 2003.**
7. Quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two percent (2% of the total Bid Price in the currency of the quotation or another freely convertible currency. Late quotations shall be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **14 August 2003** at 9:01 AM at the HHRDB Conference Room.
8. Prior to opening of quotations, a pre-bid conference will also be held at the HHRDB Conference Room at 9:00 AM on **29 July 2003.**
9. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of quotations.
10. In comparison of quotations, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
11. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such quotation as may be considered most advantageous to the Government.

By the Authority of the Secretary:

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 16, 2003)

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Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

PNOC
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

TECHNICAL SERVICES/CONSULTANT FOR NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT PROJECT
EDC03-097

The Approved Budget is P4,050,000 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 1 year/s.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o I.M. Corcuera) starting July 4, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: (P1,000.00).

Application for Eligibility must be submitted to the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of July 18, 2003.

Bid documents will be available for issuance to eligible bidders starting July 25, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand (P1,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 1, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the CAC Conference Rm., Bldg. 5 at the above address. Site inspection will follow thereafter.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of August 14, 2003 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL
Chairman & President / CEO

(PDI–July 16, 2003)

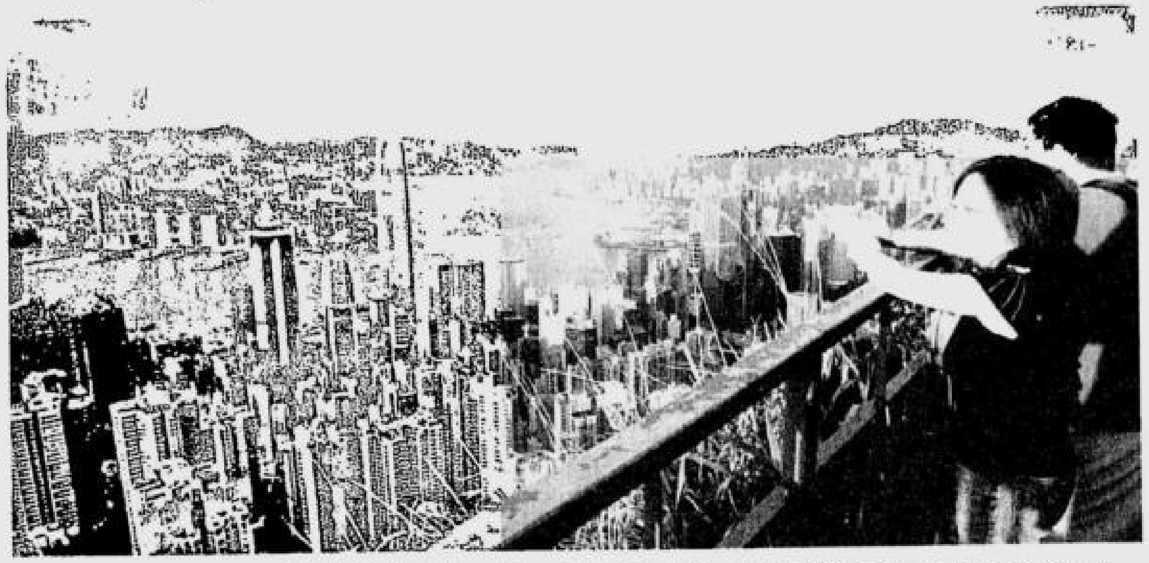
PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

MANAGING YOUR CAREER TO THE TOP

Your boss is your number one customer



THE VIEW from the top of "The Peak," Hong Kong's latest addition to its skyline, the newly completed 88-storey Two IFC building, the third tallest building in the world. AFP

By Josie O. Santamaria

WHETHER you like it or not, your boss has power over you. He appraises and evaluates your performance, recommends your promotion, freezes or fires you. He can ignore or discipline you. He can give you tasks that will make you shine and your success in performing them will make you visible to top management and to others, including possible mentors. Or he can give you routine tasks that will frustrate you and make you look stupid.

He can give you job assignments that will enable you to learn new skills, provide you with an opportunity to expand your network of contacts, and add measurable accomplishments to improve your performance appraisal, your merit increase and an impressive resume.

He has the power to approve or disapprove your requests for data, equipment, materials, training to enable you to do your work well or better.

He is the one who measures if you are doing the right things and doing things right. He decides what "right" and "important" means. If you do work your boss doesn't need, value or care about-even if you do it brilliantly-it doesn't count as "good work."

Internal customer

Your boss is your number one customer. The customer is not always the one out there who buys our company's products and pays for our services. A customer is someone we aim to please. He has needs we have to satisfy because we derive mutual benefits from the relationship.

Many of us don't have external customers, but we all have internal customers. The internal customer is one who depends on our inputs for their outputs. They depend on us to satisfy their needs for service, information and others. Satisfying their needs is the reason why we have a job. We satisfy their needs so that, in turn, they can deliver the products and services according to the external customer's demands and requirements for quality, cost effectiveness and timeliness.

As such, the boss is your internal customer. You should make it your priority to meet and satisfy his/her needs. To do this, you should ask him for his expectations, his standards and his priorities. In addition, you should also observe his behaviors: what pleases and displeases him; what he approves and disapproves of, his work habits, his sore spots and soft spots.

Positive relationship

You must build a strong and positive relationship with him/her. In doing so, you have to avoid two extreme behavior patterns observed of high potential employees in their dealings with their boss. On one extreme are behaviors directed at "ego massaging the boss" for their own personal and career advancement. They flatter the boss to ingratiate themselves to him. They don't give their own independent judgment, never express any contrary view; they merely comply, follow and obey what the boss says. They tell only the good news to the boss; they conceal the bad news for fear of looking bad.

On the other extreme are behaviors directed at "ego massaging the self." i.e., they want to look good to others, especially to the boss' boss, at the expense of the boss. They want to communicate to the boss and to others that they are better than, and superior to, their boss. They question his decisions and his judgment. They want to show that they are independent of their boss; they don't need the latter's approval. They

YOUR BOSS/ B6

ASK YOUR CEO

"Ask your CEO" column will resume next week.

Stairs of customer loyalty: steps to successful sales

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

(The first part of this article was published last week.)

WHEN a company is ready to make contact with the right type of prospect, three face-to-face steps are used to move to the next stair, "making the sale." Each step requires particular selling skills that are necessary to "close the sale." A successful sale is like building a pyramid; each step depends upon the success of the previous ones, and no step can be omitted without creating disaster. The steps are:

1. Exploring needs

The exploring step of sales gives you the chance to get deeply involved with your prospects to determine exactly how your product or service can help them. It's where the partnering process begins. The purpose of exploring is to get enough information from the client to enable you to recommend appropriate options. This step is epitomized by the guiding principle of Collaborative Selling, "Prescription before diagnosis is

STAIRS/ B5

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Tamaraw FX (Gasoline only)	710 - 730
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Hi-Lux	1135 - 1215

BRAKE PADS CHANGE	
Corolla / Corona (1989-1992)	1,110
Corolla 1992 up (Except Altis)	1,080
Camry / Corona EX Saloon, Exsior	1,680
Revo	1,580
Tamaraw FX	1,480
Hi-Ace	1,660
Hi-Lux	1,680

CLUTCH DISC REPLACEMENT	
Corolla (Except Altis)	3,235
Corona	3,405
Camry (1996-2002)	3,560
Revo	3,850
Tamaraw FX (Gas & Dsl)	3,660 - 4,880
Hi-Ace	4,795
Hi-Lux	4,070

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Gising na!

MAGIC THIRTEEN. Watch out for these powerful ballplayers in this year's UAAP.

Up close with the boys

Text by Saleema Refran and Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondents
Photos by Mike Alquinto

DAYS before the season 66 opening, we rounded up 13 players from various UAAP basketball teams and brought them to the Manila Yacht Club along Roxas Boulevard for a day of fun and play. What we were interested to know was how these guys were like off court.

Although some appeared timid at the start (yes, we swear), the ice began to thaw as the day progressed. We soon watched them jostling around, guffawing at each other's jokes and having a blast when they began striking poses for the camera (which included posing in the middle of Roxas Boulevard).

We now saw them in a different light. So don't be fooled by the cool, tough façades you see on court. The following pictures tell you how these guys are really like.

Adamson Falcons

Mark Abadia

At first glance, Mark Abadia might appear conceited and stuck-up. But don't let that deceive you. With him as company, you need not worry about entertainment. In case he doesn't pursue a professional career in basketball, he can always turn to show biz.

If you were a woman for a day, what's the first thing you would do?

I'll put on makeup and then take a picture of myself. In that way, when I turn back into a guy, I can compare the lady Mark with the real Mark (grins).

What were you like in grade school?

In grade school, I would wake up my mom early in the morning, around 4 a.m., so she could help me study my lessons.

Kenneth Bono

Don't be intimidated by Ken's build. This gentle giant, a half-German who hails from Iloilo, confesses he's really shy and soft-spoken. We think he is a darling.

Who is your favorite superhero?

Si Hulk. *Kasi pag nagagalit siya, lalo siyang lumalakas.*

What is your idea of a fun day?

Makasama ko pamilya ko, kasi matagal na kaming hindi nagkikita.

Share something few people know about you.

Simple lang akong tao, tahimik at saka mabait.

Who is your idol?

Dirk Nowitski *ng* Dallas Mavericks.

Ateneo Blue Eagles

Chris Tiu

With his achievements in academics and basketball, it is no wonder that this Ateneo rookie is constantly the center of attention. Yet he tries as much as possible to shy away from the spotlight. His fans, however, can never get enough of him.

Share something not a lot of people know about you.

I love getting head and scalp massage.

If you could be anyone for one day, who would you be and why?

I want to be someone invisible, so I can be free.

What's your insecurity?

I feel insecure when I'm singing and dancing.

JC Intal

No more Mr. Nice Guy. When this guy's off the bench, he delivers very well.

If you won one million pesos, with the condition to spend it in just three days, how would you spend it?

I'd buy a brand new car.

What's the best advice you've given to someone?

Stay humble and live life to the fullest.

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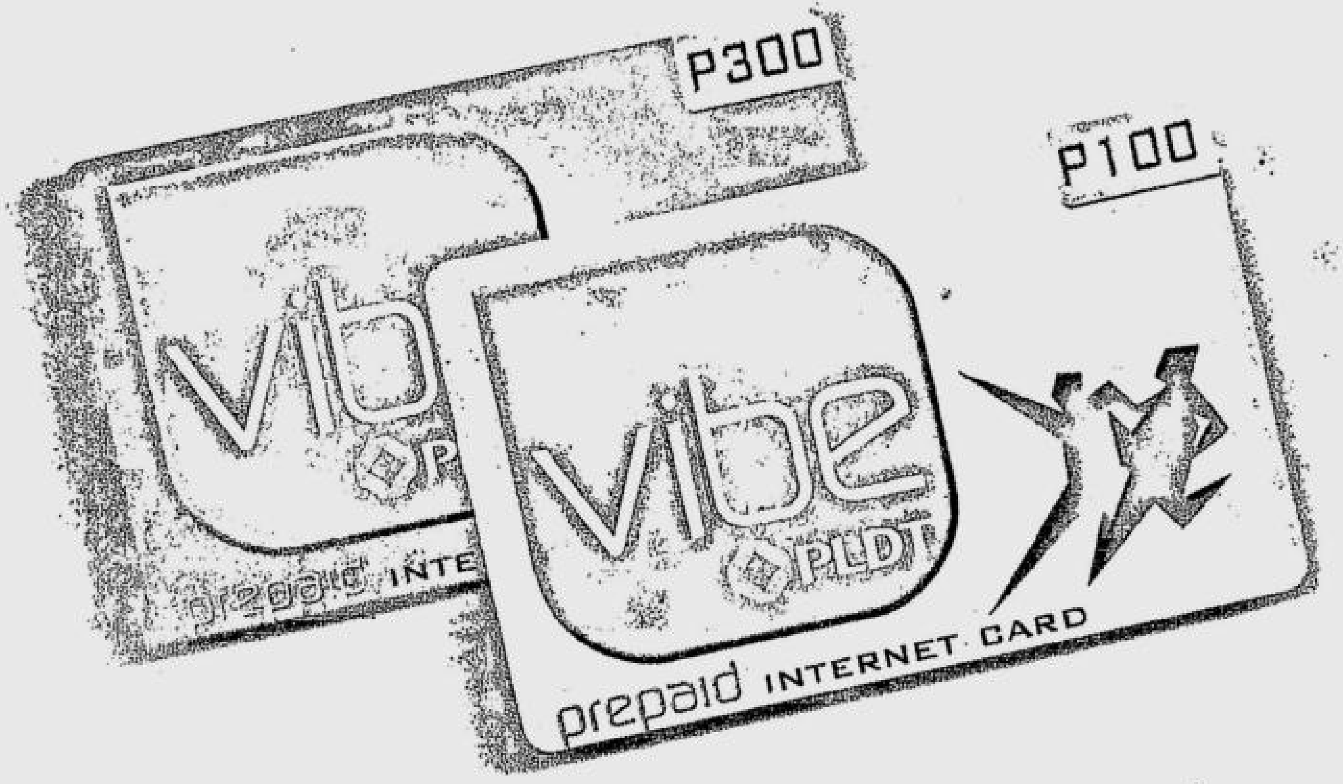

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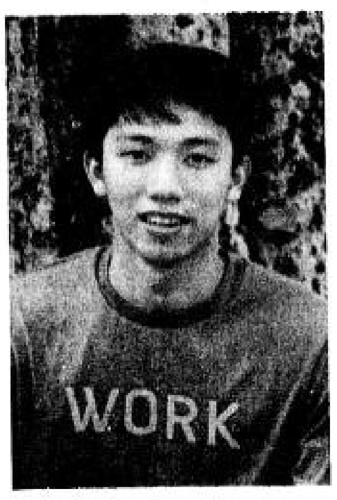
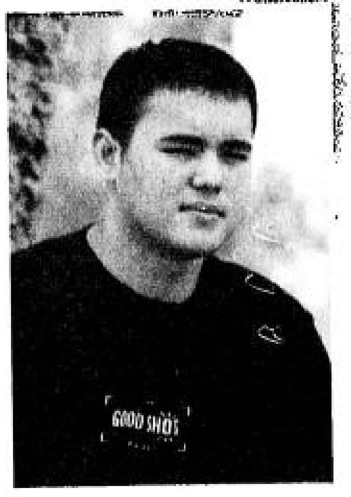
Promo runs from: June 29 to September 30, 2003 Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 1753, Series of 2003

PLDT

MARK Anthony Abadia
Adamson Falcons
6'3", Off Guard

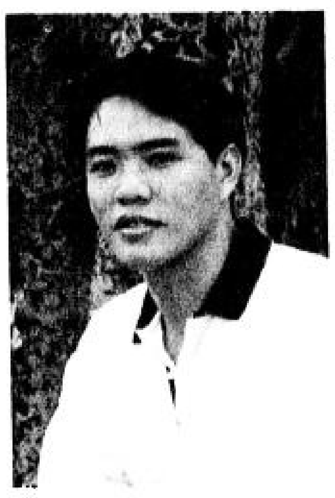


TOTI Almeda
UP Fighting Maroons
6'0", Team captain/Guard



KENNETH Bono
Adamson Falcons
6'5", Forward

ROBSON Bornancin
UP Fighting Maroons
6'2", Guard/Forward



MICHAEL Gavino
DLSU Green Archers
6'5", Center

JC Intal
Ateneo Blue Eagles
6'4", Forward

MARK Isip
FEU Tamaraw
6'4", Forward

Up close with the b

From page C1

What's the best job in the world for you?

Architect (smiles).

De La Salle Green Archers

Mike Gavino

If we could have a Mr. Down-to-Earth Award, we would hand it to Mike Gavino. This guy has no airs. We won't mind spending a day with him again.

Aside from basketball, what are you passionate about?

Living life to the fullest, as well as taking care of my family and my girlfriend. I'm also passionate about swimming and reading books.

If you found your schedule free for a day, how would you spend it?

I'd go someplace quiet with my girlfriend.

What's the best job in the world for you?

Representing our country to play basketball.

Far Eastern University Tamaraws

Mark Isip

No, you don't have to think. Mark can definitely do it for you. Armed with truckloads of wit, charm and skill, don't surprised when he leaves no stone unturned for FEU's campaign in this year.

If God didn't create basketball, what do you think would you be known for?

I would love to have a restaurant of my own. I really love to eat. (smiles)

If you were given a chance to become a superhero, what superpowers would you choose to have?

Superman is my all-time favorite. *Siyempre*, flying would be really nice.

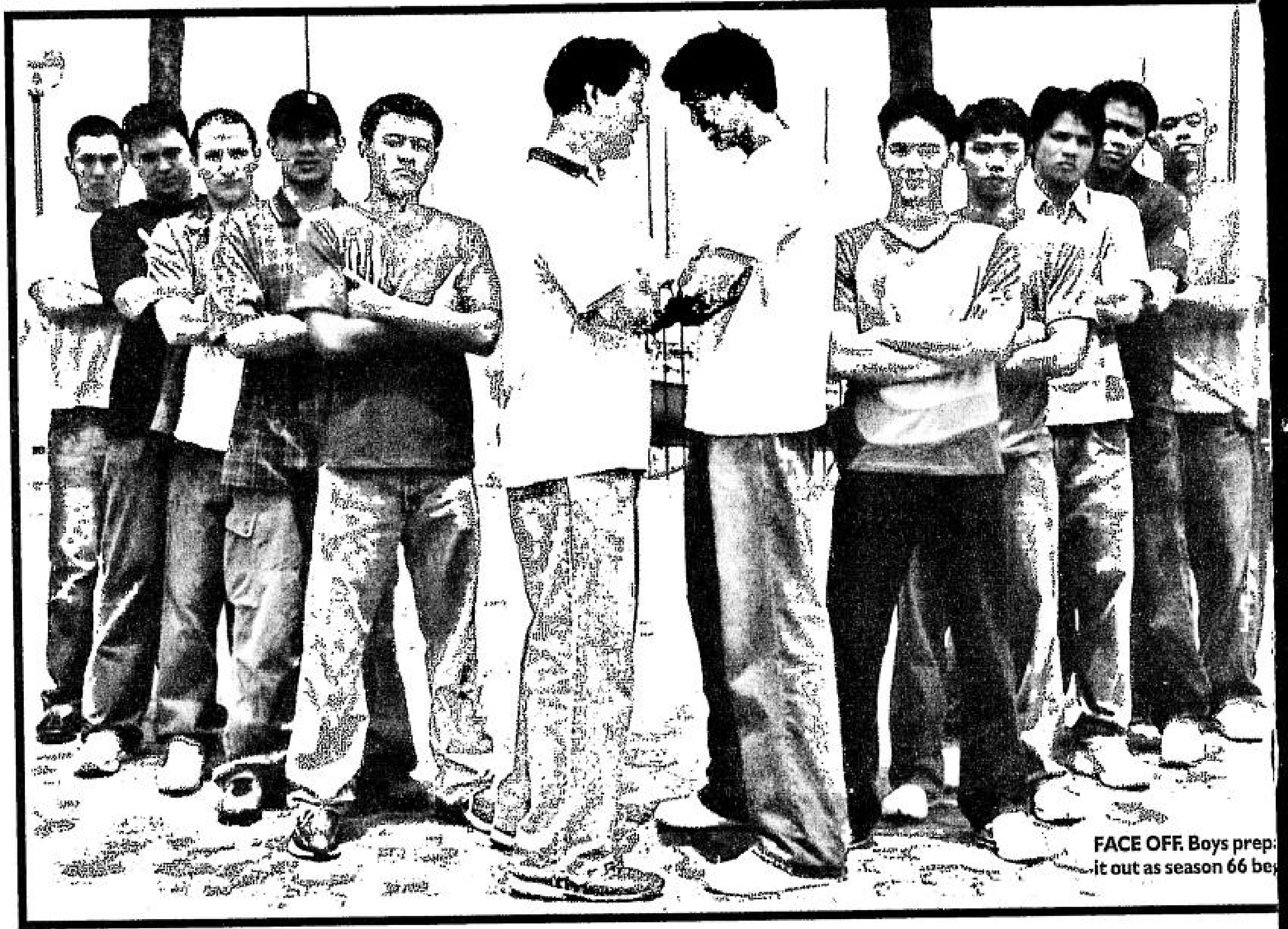
Who do you look up to the most?

My father.

We got 13 players from various UAAP basketball teams for a fun-filled—and revealing!—fashion shoot

STYLISTS:
CARLA ESPINOSA
AND PATRICIA DIMAANO
STYLING ASSISTANTS:
BINGO TELAN, ROMINA TOBIAS
AND ANGELA YU
CLOTHES:
ADIDAS, ANONYMOUS
AND NIKE

THANKS TO:
MANILA CITY HALL,
DIRECTOR NOLI MENDOZA,
BAYVIEW HOTEL, RANDY
CHAVENTE, MARIE JEAN DELA
CRUZ AND TO ALL THE UAAP
BASKETBALL COACHES



FACE OFF. Boys prep
it out as season 66 be

James Zablan

He may look like a member of the famous Power4, but beware—James Zablan has more than good looks up his sleeve. His outside shooting is smashing. His smile is another.

Define fun.

Fun is the way I live my life right now. I get to play basketball and do things not at the expense of others. I'm free and I'm very happy.

Where would we find you on a Saturday night?

During Saturday nights, if I don't have practice the next day, you'll always find me somewhere in Libis with my friends. I can also be at the moviehouse because I just love watching movies.

How would you take a girl out on a date?

I would take her to Antipolo. We'd have dinner and enjoy the scenery away from the busy streets of Manila. We'd look up at the stars together. (smiles)

Gerard Jones

If Gerard can blow your mind on court, he can do the same off court with his talent for cracking jokes anytime, anywhere.

What's your favorite scent?

My girlfriend's perfume.

If you were given a chance to be a woman for a day, what would be the first thing you would do?

I'd go to a parlor and have a makeover. Then I'd find a guy *para pagtripan* and flirt with (laughs).

If you could ask God a question, what would it be?

I'd ask him what the future holds for me.

National University Bulldogs

Reynardo Mendoza

This hardworking team captain never fails to deliver, whether on or off court.

If God didn't create basketball, what do you think would you be known for?

I'd be known for other sports. My first love was table tennis. I think I can excel because I really play good—I mean really good—at that sport.

What's the best advice you've given to someone?

Work hard no matter what happens and love what you are doing.

If you won one million pesos, with the condition to spend it in just three days, how would you spend it?

For the first day, I'd spend some of it on my family and get my brother and sister whatever they want. For the second day, I'd treat my colleagues, friends and teammates. And for the last day, I'd buy food, clothes, etc. for unfortunate kids.

Bryan Tolentino

He may be a fierce shooter on court, but this guy is anything but fierce outside the arena.

What do you do on Saturday nights? Where do you hang out?

I'm a homebody. When I go out, usually *sa* house *lang ng mga kaibigan ko*.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

When I was growing up, *gusto ko talaga maging piloto. Kaso napunta sa* basketball *yung gusto ko* when I went to high school.

If you won an all-expense paid ticket to go anywhere in the world where would you go?

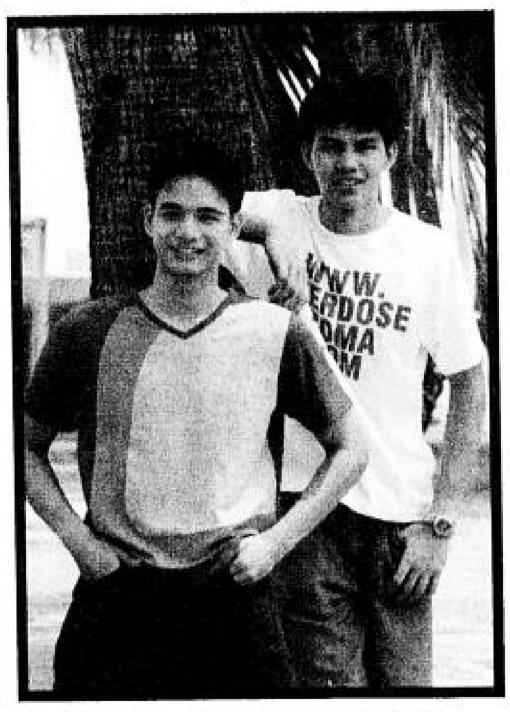
Anywhere in the world? S
Hindi pa kasi ako nakakapu
before I go out of the countr
tahan ko na lahat ng tou
Pinas.

University of the Philip Fighting Maroons

Robson Bornancin

After a one-year hiatus, th
back to add more pizzazz
game. He may look like he's
mind you, he just might blu
Tagalog word anytime— "Pu

TAMARAWS Mark, Gerard and James chilling out.



BLUE Eagles Chris and JC pose under the coconut tree.

GUYS hanging around. Mark, Chris, Rob and Toti hang on for dear life.

UP boys Rob, Toti and Jayr st

The shoot: putting it together

THE GIRLS behind it all. (from left) Patty, Carla, Romina, Saleema, Ann and Melissa

JAYR arrives first. Here with Patty and Carla

THE BOYS, crammed together in one room, waiting for their turn to get styled

PHOTOS BY: SALEEMA REFRAN

IT was the ultimate challenge: Eight teams and just two weeks to plan the perfect shoot. We were giddy that our dream shoot was about to materialize, not to mention spending the day with the cream of the UAAP basketball crop. But before we started jumping up and down, we had to take care of a million things first: clothes sponsors, city permits, hotel accommodations. But what proved to be the biggest headache was getting all the players together. While we were disappointed that James Yap and Paul Artadi of UE and Christian Luanzon and Alwin Espiritu of UST couldn't make it at the last minute, lots of players were happy to fill in.

It was definitely a shoot to remember. Two neophyte shoot directors finally pulled it off. Check out how the day went in the main article.

Saleema Refran and Melissa Telan

E-mail the authors at mel@atenista.net and s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com

BLUE Eagles JC and Chris grab a bite.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GERARD Jones
FEU Tamaraws
6'4", Team captain/Guard

REY Mendoza
NU Bulldogs (Team captain)
6'5", Forward/Center

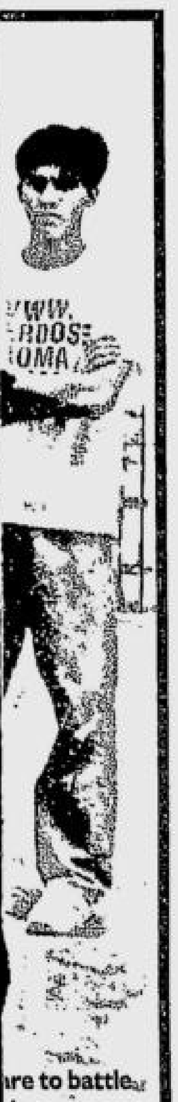
JAYR Reyes
UP Fighting Maroons
6'7", Forward/Center

CHRISTOPHER John Tiu
Ateneo Blue Eagles
5'10", Guard

BRYAN Tolentino
NU Bulldogs
6'0", Guard/Forward

JAMES Zablan
FEU Tamaraws
6'2", Guard

oys



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for a vacation,

iguro sa Boracay.
ta doon, eh. And
, gusto ko napun-
ist spots dito sa

pines

s Brazilian boy is
to the Maroons'
all business, but
t out his favorite
ede!"

Share us your memory of a favorite adventure.

It was two years ago, I was scuba diving. I got face-to-face with a big shark. I don't think I've ever been so scared in my entire life.

What's your insecurity?

Not being able to find that special someone again. But I won't lose hope.

Are you more of Mr. Play-it-safe, or Mr. Play-with-fire?

I say I am both. It depends on the occasion. When it comes to serious choices, I'm safe. But I also have a wild side. (grins)

Toti Almeda

There's no more stepping back for Toti Almeda. Finally out from the shadows, this guy is going nowhere but up. This year's team captain promises an exciting basketball season with his immense shooting ability and disarming boy-next-door looks.

What would we find you doing on a Saturday night?

You would find me at home sleeping or watching TV, because after a busy week, this is the only time I can relax, rest and sleep well.

Where is your dream destination for a vacation?

Australia, because I want to discover the beauty of Sydney, and of course, I'd like to see kangaroos. (smiles)

What's the best thing about being Toti Almeda? What's the worst thing?

The best thing about Toti Almeda is he drives a Rav4. The worst thing is he is so forgetful. Most of the time he forgets the things he needs to do for the day. That's why just recently, he bought a planner. (smiles)

Jayr Reyes

The Maroons' big bad boy is back for one more year of those thunderous blocks. Expect him to be grittier and meaner in blocking shots and reshooting missed shots. Despite that, this guy's got one big, soft heart.

If you could be anyone for one day, who would you be and why?

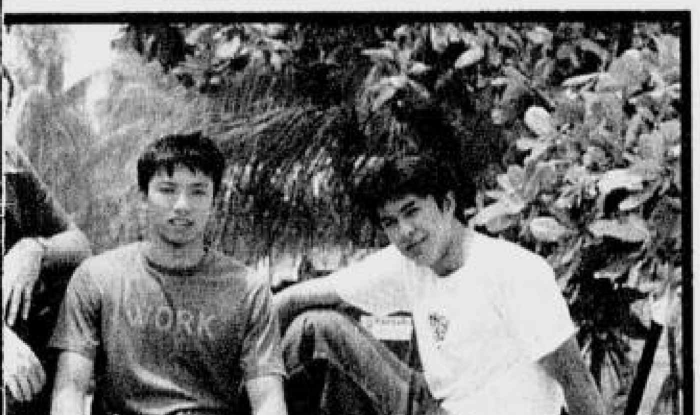
I want to be Michael Jordan. I want to experience how it is to be the greatest basketball player in the world.

If you find your schedule free for a day, how would you spend it?

Given a free day, I'd spend it with my famil . Maybe in Switzerland for bonding. (smiles)

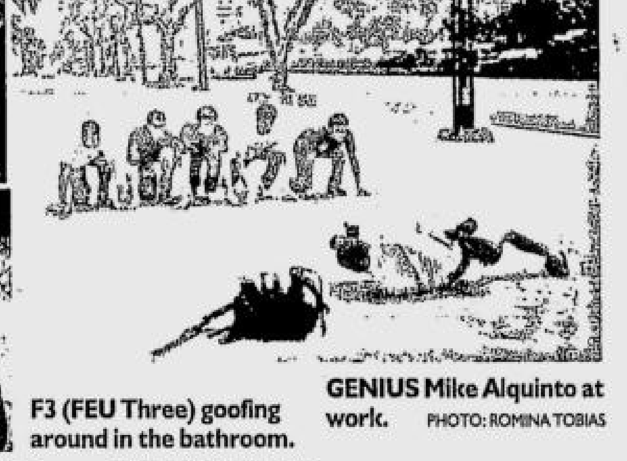
What were you like in grade school?

I had a normal childhood even if I was already 5'10" in grade 6. (smiles)



rike a boy-band pose.

PLAYERS take a breather in between shots.



GENIUS Mike Alquinto at work.

PHOTO: ROMINA TOBIAS

F3 (FEU Three) goofing around in the bathroom.

BOYS AT PLAY. (from left) Ken, Mike, James and Jayr gamely jump from the Roxas Boulevard center island.

2bU! UAAP shoot awards

EARLY BIRD Jayr Reyes—At 6:30 a.m., Saleema was shocked to receive a call from him asking for directions to Bayview Hotel, the shoot's meeting place. He arrived even before the shoot organizers did at 7 a.m. The call time for players was 8 a.m. Now that's what we call professional.

PRETTY BOY James Zablan—Doesn't he look familiar? He could pass for a Power4 member, don't you think?

GEE-HE-SMELLS-TERRIFIC Robson Bornancin—We caught a whiff of this guy's perfume and, my god, believe us when we say he smells terrific. (Just a few sniffs behind is Jayr Reyes.)

MR. BASHFUL Kenneth Bono—With his solid build and serious expression, you'd think this guy's anything but bashful. But he proved to be the most soft-spoken of the lot. (Runner-up goes to Bryan Tolentino).

CAME-AT-THE-NICK-OF-TIME Kenneth Bono and Mark Abadia—These two arrived an hour late, apologizing profusely. The alarm didn't go off, they said.

BRING-HOME-TO-MOM BOYS JC Intal, Mark Isip and Gerard Jones—We think they're simply adorable.

SHOOT DARLING Chris Tiu—Our stylists can't get enough him. He's just one charming guy, and he was the perfect gentleman as well.

NO-SHOW Mark Cardona and Joseph Yeo of DLSU—'Nuff said.

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July 20, 2003

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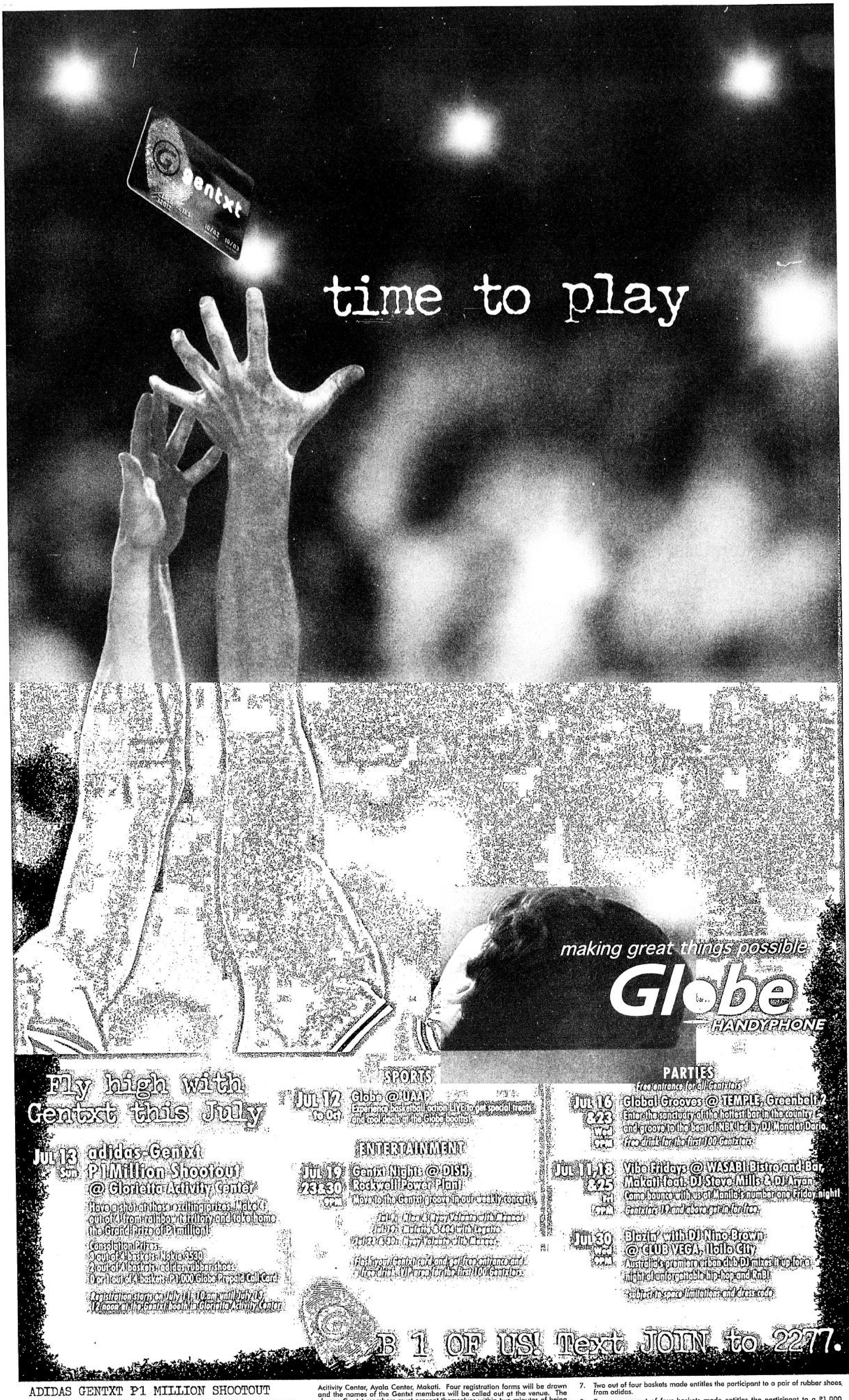

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Registration starts on July 11, 10 am until July 13, 12 noon at the Gentxt booth in Glorietta Activity Center

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JUL 19, 23 & 30 9PM **Gentxt Nights @ DISH, Rockwell Power Plant**
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3. You must be present on Sunday, 13 July 2003 at 5 p.m. at the Glorietta Acitivity Center, Ayala Center, Makati. Four registration forms will be drawn and the names of the Gentxt members will be called out at the venue. The chosen Gentxt members must present themselves within two minutes of being called, or other names will be called. All participants must present their Globe Handyphone and a valid ID for verification purposes.
4. Each of the four participants may take a maximum of four shots from the three-point line (23 feet 9 inches). No practice time or shots will be given.
5. Four out of four baskets made entitles the participant to One Million Pesos (Prize tax shall be paid by the sponsors).
6. Three out of four baskets made entitles the participant to a Nokia 3530 handset from Globe Telecom.
7. Two out of four baskets made entitles the participant to a pair of rubber shoes, from adidas.
8. Zero or one out of four baskets made entitles the participant to a P1,000 prepaid call card from Globe Telecom.
9. Each participant may only win one prize.
10. All employees of adidas, Globe Telecom, Islacom, Harrison Communications, Inc., TBWA, Carat, and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from participating.
11. Current or former professional basketball players and high school or collegiate varsity basketball players who have played at that level in the last five years are disqualified from participating.

A sneak peek at the sneaks

2bU!'s resident shoe fetishist gets into the fabled footwear of collegiate basketball players and checks out what fits

By Dexter R. Matilla
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S THAT time of the year again when, amid the glamour and excitement of the country's premiere collegiate league, the UAAP, we do a lookover of the basketball players, particularly down there—and see what kicks they wore during the opening games. (We will be focusing on the more recent styles and releases.)

E-mail the author at dxmatilla@yahoo.com

Nike

Air Zoom Ultraflight—with its thermo-formed plastic shell and its full-length dynamic fit in the inner bootie, this shoe provides a lot of cushioning and excellent comfort.

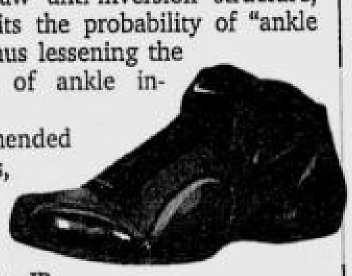
Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Robson Bornancin (UP Fighting Maroons)

Shox Limitless—this shoe utilizes Zoom Air technology in the forefoot and Shox technology at the heel. It also has a monkey paw anti-inversion structure, which limits the probability of "ankle rolling," thus lessening the possibility of ankle injuries.

Recommended for: guards, forwards and centers

Seen on: JR Reyes (UP Fighting Maroons), Joseph Casio (DLSU Green Archers)



Air Ultraposite—with its full-length zoom air plus an additional zoom air sole unit at the heel, this shoe provides incredibly responsive cushioning, excellent impact protection and excellent court feel.

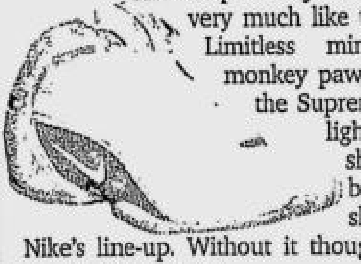
Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Edsel Del Rosario (UST Growling Tigers)

Shox VC2—the first shoe to use full-length shox, the VC2 (Toronto Raptors' star Vince Carter's signature shoe), also provides awesome impact protection. It also utilizes the monkey paw anti-inversion technology for better ankle support.

Recommended for: forwards and centers

Seen on: Arnold Booker (UE Warriors), Rich Alvarez (Ateneo Blue Eagles), Mark Isip (FEU Tamaraws)



Shox Supremacy—this shoe is very much like the Shox Limitless minus the monkey paw, making the Supremacy the lightest shox-based shoe in Nike's line-up. Without it though, ankle support is very poor.

Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Reynaldo Mendoza (NU Bulldogs)

Air Zoom Enhance—made up of lightweight synthetic leather upper with internalized speed lacing system and heel support chassis for increased support and comfort. Double-lasted Phylon midsole with responsive forefoot Zoom Air unit and midfoot shank are added for more torsional rigidity. Its solid rubber outsole with herringbone and wavebone patterns provides better traction.

Recommended for: guards, forwards and light centers

Seen on: Some of the UST Tigers

Air Flight Technique—has a lightweight synthetic leather upper and internalized speed lacing system. Double-lasted Phylon midsole with visible heel Air-Sole unit and midfoot shank adds support. Solid rubber outsole with modified herringbone pattern provides better traction.

Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Jay-Ar Estrada (UE Warriors)

A SNEAK/ D2

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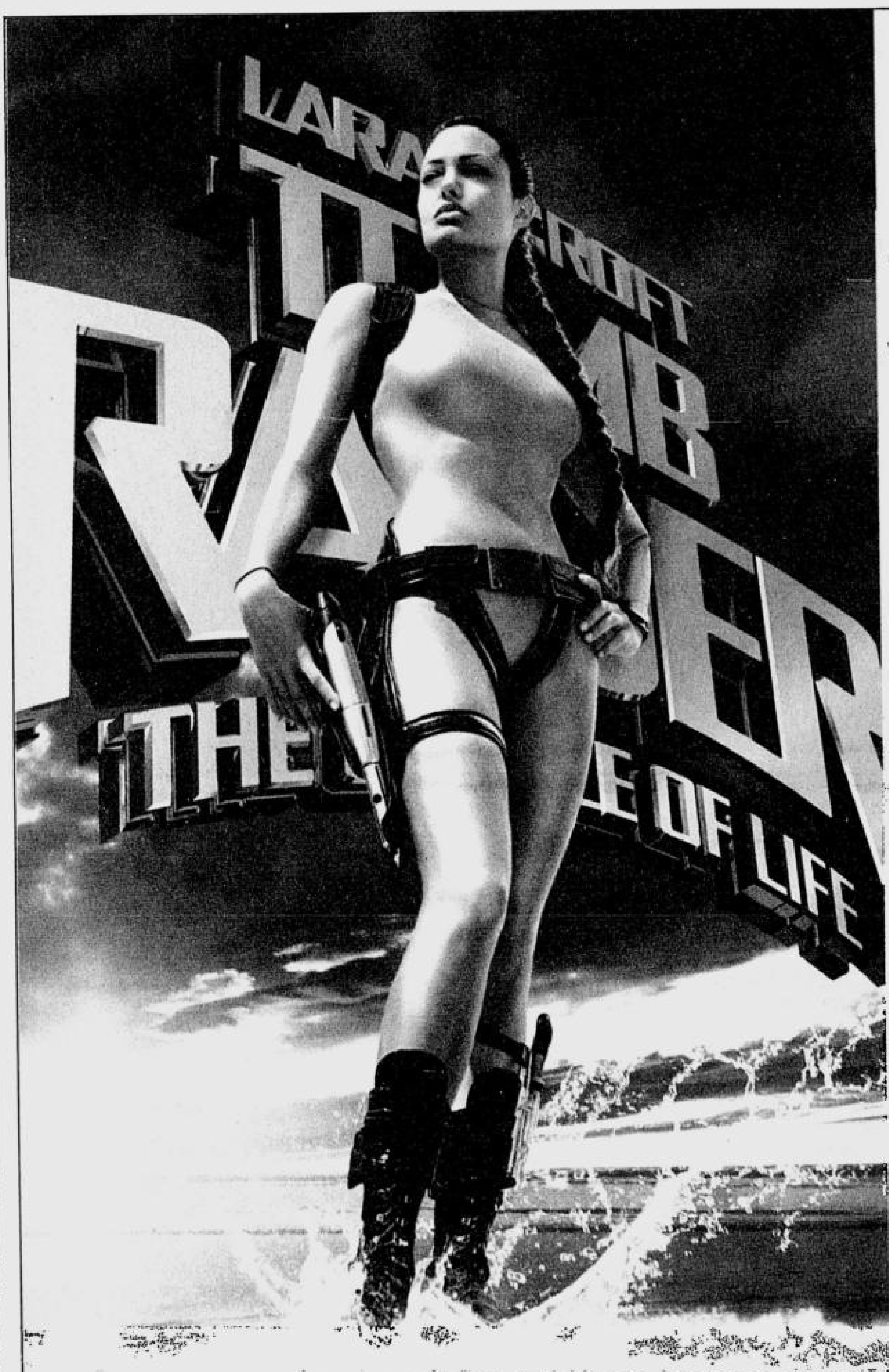

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Cheering up the cheerleaders

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

Four girls who keep their teams' spirits on the up and up enjoy a makeover before the UAAP season begins

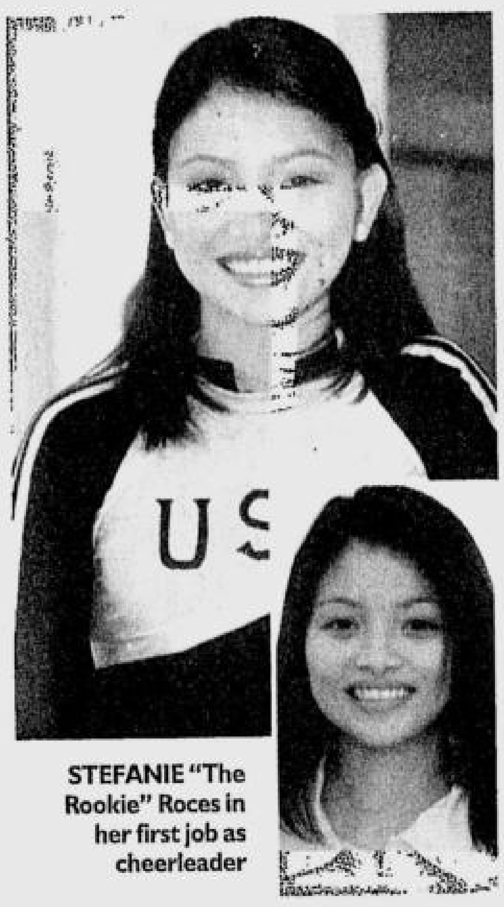
IT is not so secret that I was a cheerleader for six long years. You might assume it was ordained by fate, but I knew otherwise.

Growing up with the poise and grooming habits of a boy, I had to convince myself I could execute dance moves and cartwheels with grace while keeping a perma-cheerleader grin on my face (read: BIG smile with mouth half-open) and looking adorable at the same time.

Don't even get me started on the minuscule skirts, hot pants that ride up the worst places, and the torturously tight ponytails that caused my hairline to prematurely recede. Trust me when I tell you the halftime routines are not as effortless as they seem.

Trying to make their seemingly glamorous lives a bit easier before the new season of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) opened and their schedules get filled with training sessions and basketball matches, I treated four cheerleaders to a few hours of girly bonding, a.k.a. a salon trip and boxes of pizza.

I brought Patty Yuzon of Ateneo de Manila University, Aimee Bulay of De la Salle University, Stefanie Roces of the University of Santo Tomas and Jill Anne Roy of the University of the Philippines to some of the beauty wizards in town who taught them the best way to carry their school colors with pride on their pretty faces.



STEFANIE "The Rookie" Roces in her first job as cheerleader

Blue and white

Fresh-faced Ateneo junior Patty Yuzon has been waving her pom-poms and strutting her stuff on the hardcourt since her freshman year. Now one of the "veterans" on the squad, her almost-bare face called for a look that was not cutesy. Vivere's stylist du jour Abby Eclipse-Sanderson used deep blues that echoed the proud colors of the Blue Eagles to play up Patty's mestiza charm.

On Patty:

Face: Shiseido the Makeup pre-makeup cream and stick foundation

Eyes: Eyeshadow Duo in iced blue, Distinguish mascara in black

Cheeks: Blush Duo in wine

Lips: Sheer Gloss lipstick in S2

Green and white

When De la Salle senior and Pep Squad team captain Aimee Bulay isn't perfecting blocking formations and creating groovy dance steps, she is giving out bright smiles and cheery remarks. A fan of the naturally made-up face, statuesque Aimee does not sport neon-colored lids or hot fuchsia cheeks while strutting her stuff on court. Salon manager and top stylist Martin Armean stuck to an earthy look with shades of green that come from nature—not from a spray paint bottle.

On Aimee:

Face: Shiseido the Makeup powdery foundation and luminizing color powder

Eyes: Eyeshadow Duo in pearl green, Distinguish mascara in black

Lips: Sheer Gloss lipstick in S6

Cheeks: Blush Duo in tan 2

LOOKS like Jill Anne Roy has a lot to smile about!

Black-gold, black-white

A UAAP newbie, soft-spoken Stefanie Roces exudes a quiet confidence that translates into rookie charm when she does her cheerleading routine. With her striking features, she will stand out among many yellow-clad cheerleaders with a "golden girl" look in luminous color. Abby Sanderson made the most of Stefanie's subtle sophistication with a palette that screamed hardcourt glam!

On Stefanie:

Face: Shiseido the Makeup pre-makeup cream and stick foundation

Eyes: Eyeshadow Duo in yellow/brown and cold gleam, Eyebrow and Eyeliner Compact in black

Cheeks: Luminizing color powder in golden bronze

Lips: Sheer Gloss lipstick in S7

Maroons

Busan Games "alumna" and UP senior Jill Anne Roy has been helping the university Pep Squad bag top prizes in the annual UAAP Cheerleading competition for the past four years. With a sleek, lithe body that can assume any position with grace, Jill cannot be bothered with the state of her makeup while performing. Mojo S., one of Vivere's most talented stylists, used dramatic red and maroon to create a face to match the fearless attitude Jill exudes.

On Jill:

Face: Shiseido the Makeup pre-makeup base, powdery foundation

Eyes: Eyeshadow Duo in gold leaf and brown red

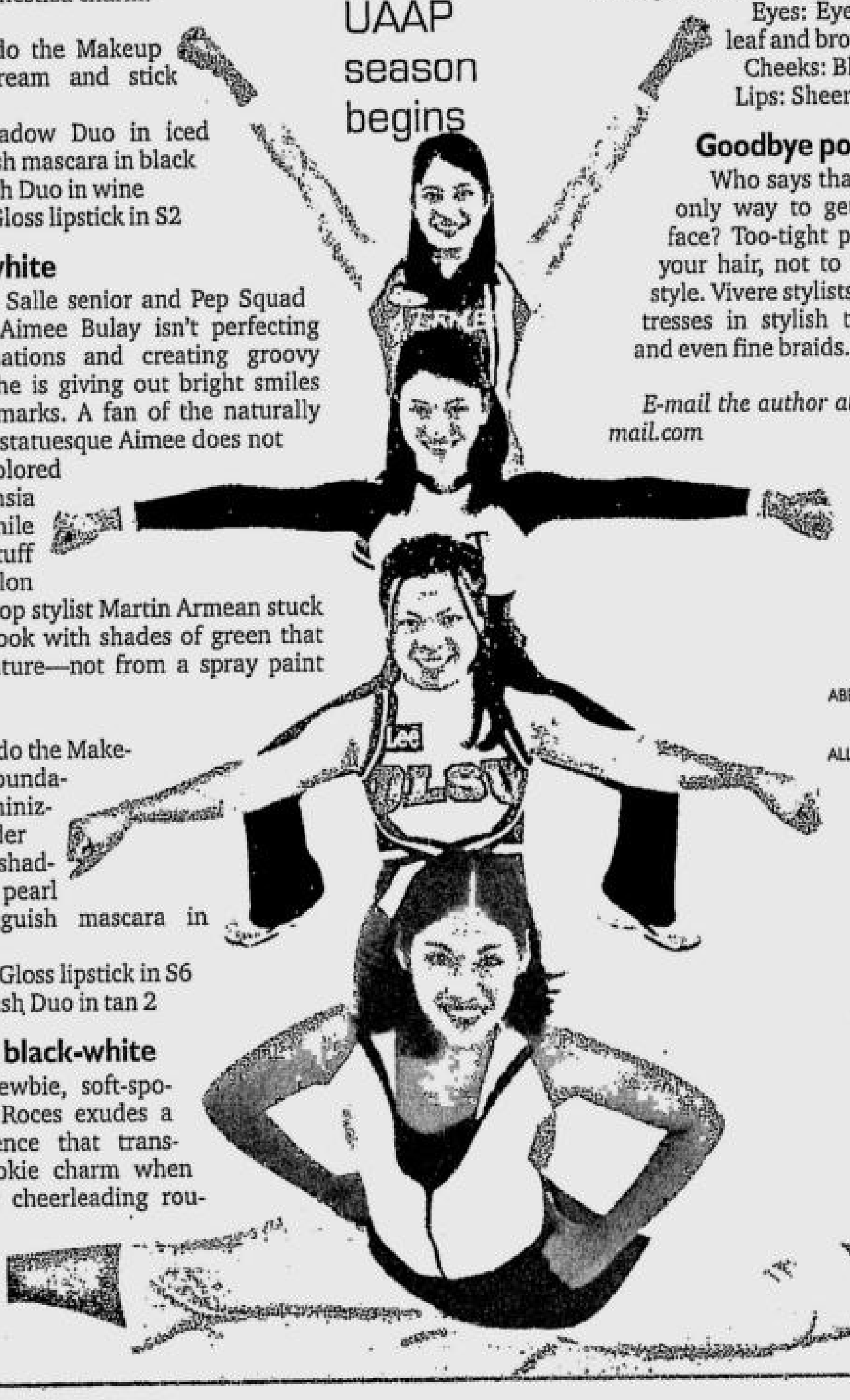
Cheeks: Blush Duo in tan

Lips: Sheer Gloss lipstick in S2

Goodbye ponytail

Who says that high ponytail is the only way to get your hair off your face? Too-tight ponytails can damage your hair, not to mention cramp your style. Vivere stylists pulled back the girls' tresses in stylish twists, half-upsweeps and even fine braids.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com



UAAP cheerleaders show off their winning forms.

PHOTOS:
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
ABBY ECLIPSE-SANDERSON, MARTIN ARMEAN, AND MOJO S.
OF VIVERE SALON
ALL MAKEUP PROVIDED BY SHISEIDO

PATTY Yuzon of Ateneo beams for the camera.

SAY "green"! Aimee Bulay and her cheerleader grin

THE BEAUTY squad: Jill, Mojo S., Stefanie, Abby Eclipse-Sanderson, Patty, the author, Aimee and Martin Armean

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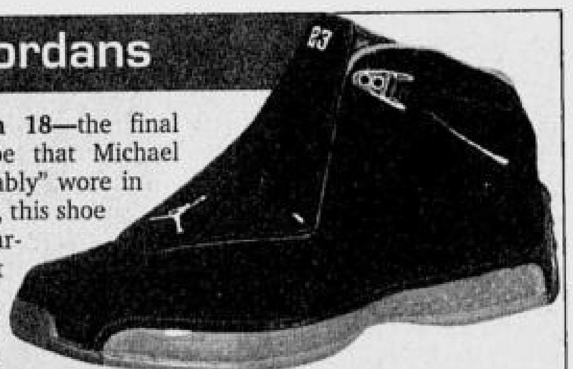
A sneak peek at the sneaks

From page D1

This season's crop of must-have basketball footwear blends dazzling design with invaluable safety and comfort features

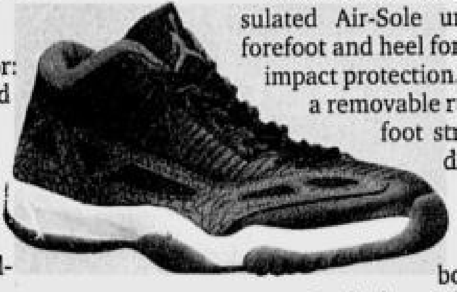
Nike Jordans



Air Jordan 18—the final signature shoe that Michael Jordan "probably" wore in an NBA game, this shoe utilizes the Carbon Comfort Control Plate sockliner for better, well, "comfort." It has very good ankle support and excellent traction. And Adamson's Mark Abadia obviously loved this shoe that he wore two different colorways (black/blue on his left foot and white/blue on the right) during his team's opening match against the FEU Tamaraws.

Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Mark Abadia (Adamson Falcons)



Air Jordan 11 retro low i.e.—a very lightweight and supportive shoe. It has breathable leather and its upper part is made of mesh underlays. It has a sculpted phylon midsole with full-length air-sole unit and carbon fiber spring plate, and a clear solid rubber outsole with herringbone traction pods.

Recommended for: guards

Seen on: Derrick Hubalde (UST Growling Tigers)

Air Jordan 8 retro—with its dynamic-fit inner bootie and encapsulated Air-Sole units at the forefoot and heel, this shoe is very comfortable and has a good side-to-side fit. Its midfoot straps provide better support.

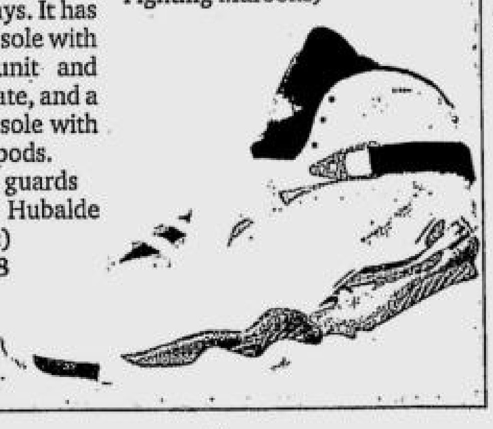
Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Paul Artadi (UE Warriors)

Jordan FBI—has an encapsulated Air-Sole unit at the forefoot and heel for very good impact protection. It also has a removable rubber midfoot strap for additional support, and a full-length bootie construction for better fit.

Recommended for: guards, forwards and centers

Seen on: Marvin Cruz (UP Fighting Maroons)



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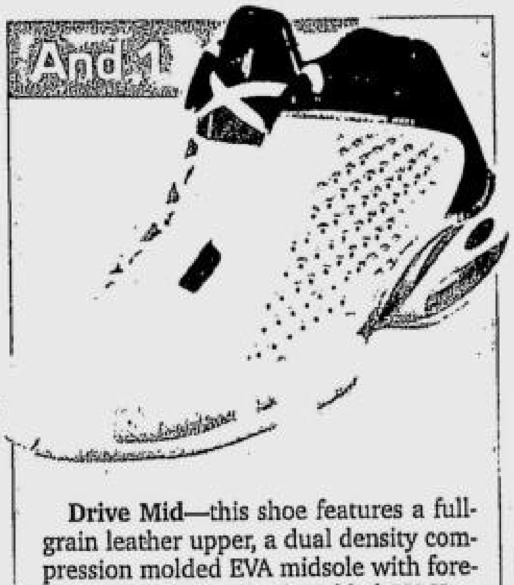
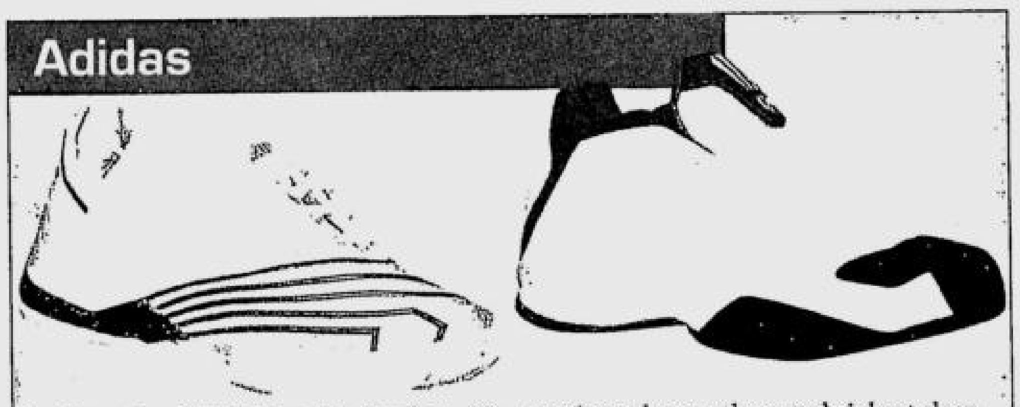


Drive Mid—this shoe features a full-grain leather upper, a dual density compression molded EVA midsole with forefoot wrap design, heel molded PU Harmonix Airbag and a high abrasion rubber outsole.

Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: some of the UP Fighting Maroons

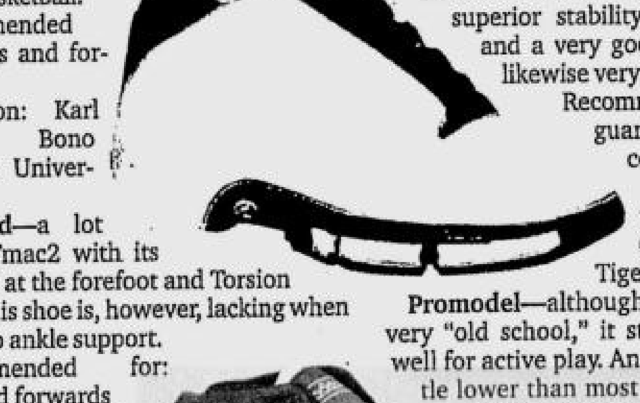
Adidas



Tmac2—adiPRENE at the forefoot, 3D Torsion System, internal bootie construction for better fit. Orlando Magic's Tracy McGrady's second signature shoe, the Tmac2 is one of the very few shoes that hold up well when used for outdoor basketball.

Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Karl Kenneth Bono (Adamson University)



Polished—a lot like the Tmac2 with its adiPRENE at the forefoot and Torsion System, this shoe is, however, lacking when it comes to ankle support.

Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Toti Almeda (UP Fighting Maroons)

Player's Ball—same as Polished but cheaper, this shoe provides very good comfort and cushioning feel. It also has very good traction as long as the outsole is kept clean.

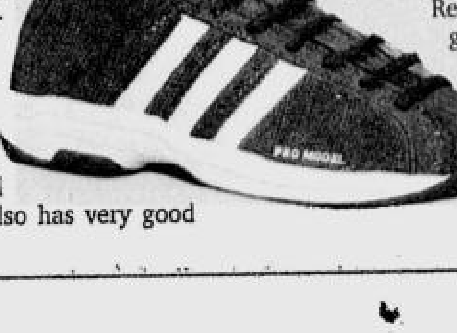
Recommended for: guards and forwards

Seen on: Dennis Miranda (FEU Tamaraws)

A3 FF Bball—the first Adidas shoe to utilize A3 technology at the forefoot, this shoe has excellent impact protection, superior stability at the forefoot and a very good fit. Traction is likewise very good.

Recommended for: guards, forwards and centers

Seen on: Christian Luanzon (UST Growling Tigers)



Promodel—although this shoe may be very "old school," it still holds up very well for active play. And though cut a little lower than most mid shoes, it still provides good ankle support.

Recommended for: guards, forwards and centers

Seen on: Manny Ramos and Joseph Yeo (DLSU Green Archers)

Bringing the games to you... live!

What does it take to cover the UAAP? A student sportscaster gives us the lowdown

By Jamela Alindogan
2bU! Correspondent

WITH THE UAAP's 66th season opening with a bang, everyone's eyes will surely be glued on ABS-CBN's continuing coverage—and hopefully not just because of the games.

For many of us, becoming a courtside reporter for the UAAP is a choice stepping stone toward the ultimate dream of building a career in television.

Patty Laurel, who did courtside reports for Ateneo for two years, just bagged the 2003 MTV VJ slot. Before her was Pia Archangel, who is now with GMA-7 doing news reports.

Being a member of this year's batch of sportscasters, I can say that grabbing one slot for my school (Far Eastern University) wasn't easy. Over 500 students from the eight participating schools auditioned for the limited slots. Thirteen were chosen for the workshop, and the final list was cut down to eight.

"For this year's UAAP, we wanted to add fresh faces to the coverage," says Peter Musngi, VP for special projects of ABS-CBN.

"We based it on their performances during the training workshop. It is very important that they are spontaneous, [able] to think on their feet and know the technical side of basketball."

Lucky batch

Knowing the technical aspects of basketball is easy enough, but looking good on television is another story, especially for neophytes like us.

"This year's batch is the luckiest. Unlike the previous ones, they were given a free workshop by ABS-CBN under the Talent Center. They were taught how to face the camera and modulate their voices. They were also taught tension exercises to help them relax before an on-cam stint. Therefore, we expect them to do well," says Marivic Araneta, executive producer for the UAAP coverage.

But with such privileges come heavy responsibilities. Courtside reporters, after all, are also representatives of their own school. Whatever they do in front of the camera reflects on their team and their university.

Randy Sacdalan, a long-time sports anchor, addressed this concern by giving us pointers on how we can make ourselves sound good on-cam.

"Expect people to criticize you and make fun of you, but you have to be able to accept and adjust," he says.

Carmi Tanjutco, this year's Ateneo reporter, admits there is great pressure for her to perform well.

"Everybody expects me to be better than Patty and Pia, or to be at least as good as them. It's hard because I never had any previous experience, but I'll just put in mind what they taught us during the workshop, and that is to relax and just have fun."

I myself had to wait for three years to get my own moment. The first coverage of ABS-CBN was in 2000, and I was the alternate sportscaster for a Nigerian reporter. I stopped school for a year, and when I came back, I attended the sportscasting seminar conducted by the Center for Sports Communication. Then I tried auditioning, and thankfully, I got the part.

Being with my fellow sportscasters from Day One of the workshops made us all closer to each other. We bonded easily and made honest criticisms about our performances during the workshop exercises.

Our workshop also included basic yoga exercises, which helped us get rid of our inhibitions. Certainly we had to, as we were instructed at one point to spread our legs wide apart in the air while saying the word "*balot*" in as modulated a manner as possible!

Human drama

Hazel Aguilon of the De La Salle University was a campus DJ beforehand and says that her experience should help her in the job.

"Being fluent in English is a major plus, although radio is also lot different than TV. You have to be conscious about your facial expressions; what you say and how you say it is very important. The Talent Center management even told me to change my hairstyle so I would look younger!"

"We are tasked to cover the entertaining part of these games," adds Michelle Sarthou of UP, who is now training for the advertising firm McCann Ericksson. "We report about how the ballers react, how they feel about the nerve-racking situations they find themselves in. [For this], you have to have a keen eye for human drama."

C.A. Belo will be doing courtside reports for Adamson University, while Jeff Napa, a former basketball player of National University, will be representing his school.

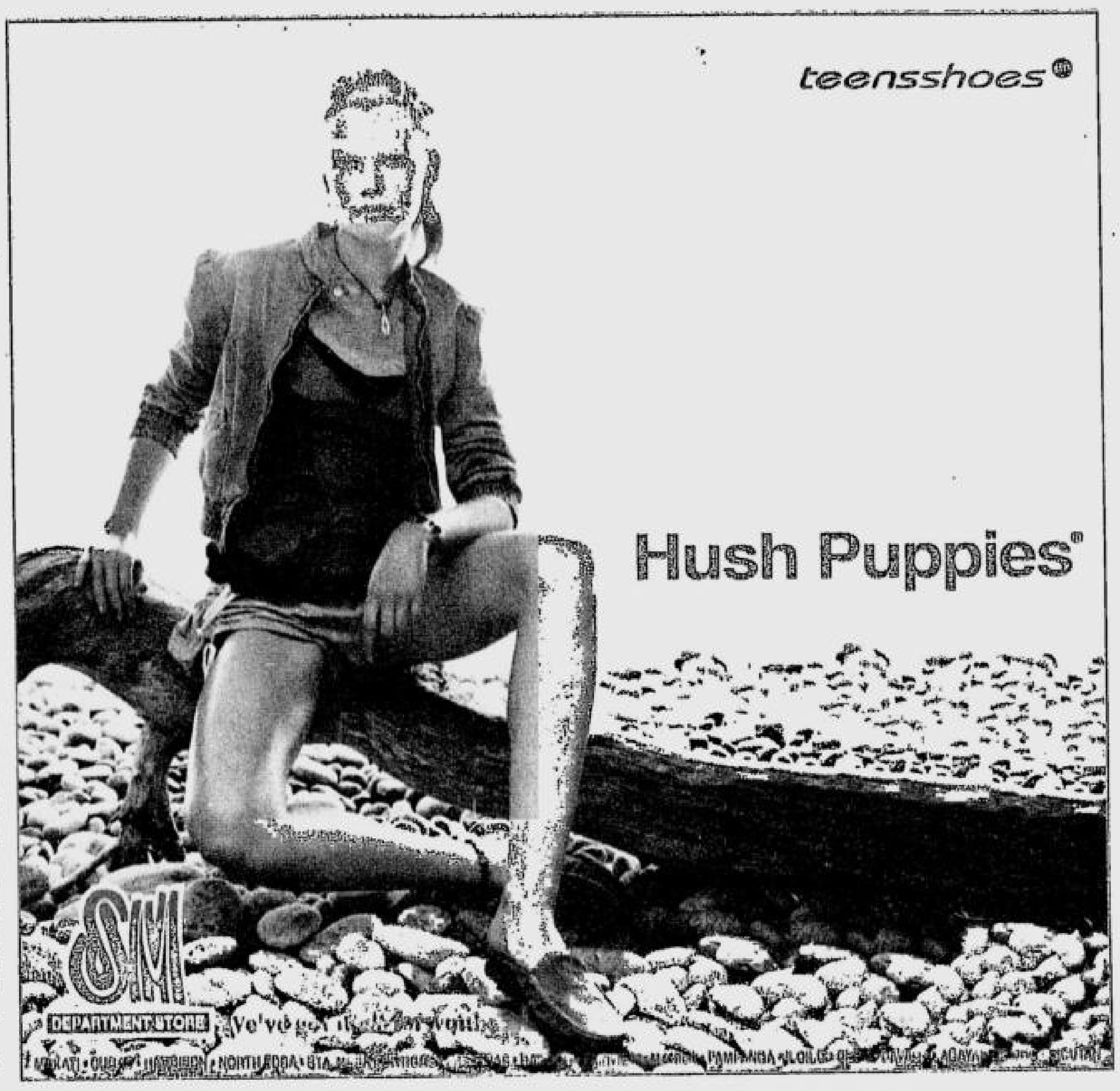
"When they (ABS-CBN) told me to do the reports for NU, I had to think twice. I don't really like being in front of the camera, but since I know the technical side of basketball, I taught, why not give it a shot?" says Napa, who is now playing for the Viva team in the Philippine Basketball League.

THE AUTHOR (right) and her fellow sportscasters take a break from their workshops.

The most important lesson we all learned from our workshop is to be prepared.

Be ready to be taunted, criticized and praised. Some people will like us, others will not. But as long as we know our game, we'll give it our best shot.

For us, as for the athletes we will cover, it's "Love what you do and just have fun." And that's what the UAAP is all about.



A UAAP timeline

Compiled by Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

1930—Dr. Regino Ylanan, then director of UP's physical education, thinks of setting common athletic policies for the tertiary institutions existing at the time. This paves the way for the creation of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

1924—University of Santo Tomas (UST), National University (NU), De La Salle College and the Institute of Accounts (forerunner of Far Eastern University) accepts the invitation of Dr. Ylanan to participate in organizing the athletic association. A week after its initial meeting, the group forms what becomes the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

1930—The NCAA board of directors files incorporation papers with the then Bureau of Commerce. UP, UST and NU feels that this would lead to commercialism. Thus, before the start of the 1930-1931 season, they seek permission from the NCAA to form a triangular meet, which is approved on the condition that the NCAA's scheduled events would have first dibs on the use of sports facilities. UST's Dionisio Calvo, NU's Leon Tirol and UP's Prof. Candido Bartolome sign the article of agreement.

1932—The "Big 3 League" is formed on April 6 with the University of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas and National University as founding members. On August 14, the Big 3 League holds its inaugural games with basketball, swimming, baseball, track and field, volleyball, tennis and soccer as the first sports events.

1935—The Institute of Accounts (now known as Far Eastern University) joins the Big 3 League.

September 27, 1938—The University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) is formally organized as a permanent sports association. The first UAAP games include basketball, women's volleyball, baseball, football, swimming and track and field.

1941—The outbreak of World War II hinders UST from hosting the 1941-42 season of the UAAP.

1946—After the war, the league resumes the staging of the UAAP games with UST as host.

1952—University of the East (UE), University of Manila (UM), Adamson University and Manila Central University are granted a two-year probationary membership in the UAAP.

1954—UE is formally accepted as the fifth member of the UAAP.

1965-1971—The University of the East wins seven consecutive titles.

1970—Adamson University reapplies for admission to the league and is given a two-year probationary period.

1973—The UAAP is made national in scope, with the National UAAP formed in other regions in the country.

1974—Adamson University becomes the sixth member of the UAAP after it hosted the 74-75 season

1977—The first National UAAP game is held in Baguio University.

1978—Bicol hosts the National UAAP season in Nueva Caceres University.

1978—The UAAP admits Ateneo de Manila University as the seventh member of the league.

1981—FEU, coached by Arturo Valenzona, registers the league's first-ever sweep in basketball to grab the crown.

1986—De La Salle University (DLSU) becomes the eighth member of the UAAP.

1991—Silverstar Communications televises the entire season of the 54th UAAP basketball games.

1992—For the first time in UAAP history, the basketball games of the 55th UAAP season are shown live on television.

1993—The UST Growling Tigers makes history by winning all the games of the 56th UAAP season.

1994—UST scores a rare feat in basketball by winning the seniors, women's and juniors' divisions.

1996—UST wins its fourth straight title in men's basketball.

1997—FEU faces DLSU in the championship and ends UST's winning streak in basketball.

2000—DLSU wins its third straight men's basketball title.

2002—Ateneo wins the championships, ending the reign of DLSU.

Source: http://uaap.pinoycentral.com

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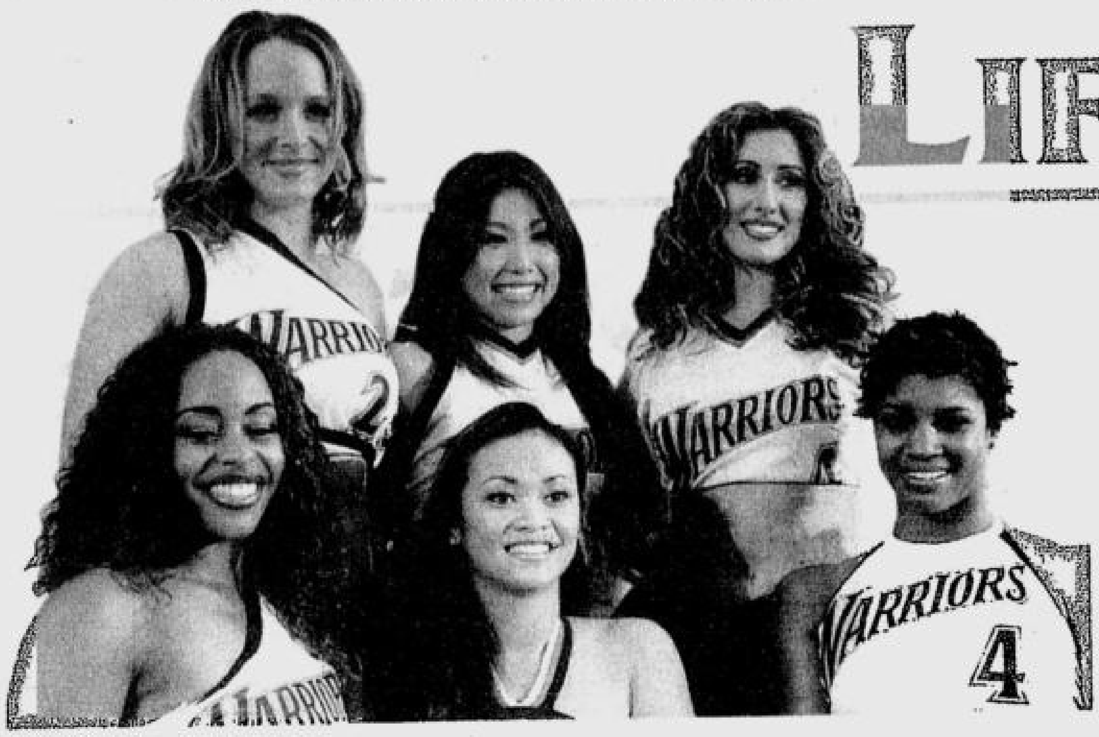

NICOLE King, Katie Wells, Sanae Tomita, Shelby Alexander, Jen Testa and Audrey Asprec

The cheering squad of the Golden States Warriors was in town recently to give local NBA fans a feeling of American-style pom-pom madness

'Bring it on' girls in Manila

Text by Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Charles T. Custodio

ONE of the more popular dance teams in the National Basketball Association (NBA), the Warrior Girls, the cheering squad of the Golden State Warriors, recently came to town to promote a series of events.

Nicole King, Katie Wells, Sanae Tomita, Jen Testa, Shelby Alexander and Fil-American Audrey As-

BRING/ E4

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	CRO MAGNON M PEOPLE/MIXED-UP	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	FAT 16 MISSMO	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	EMMANUELLE MEN OPPOSE	BLAKDYAK ALL FRIDAY'S OF JULY
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	FEEDBACK STREETLIFE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SOUTH EDGE P R P	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	STAY TUNED 3RD DEGREE	JULY 30-SABOR LATINO
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	3RD MOVEMENT	JULY 29-SABOR LATINO

JULY 16 WEDNESDAY 422-9877

WHAT'S ON at Robinsons

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Watch in awe as this popular rock/alternative band performs live at Robinsons Place Novaliches. Experience a different musical extravaganza!

July [illegible], Friday, [illegible]pm
Central Atrium
Robinsons Place Novaliches

ROBINSONS Place NOVALICHES

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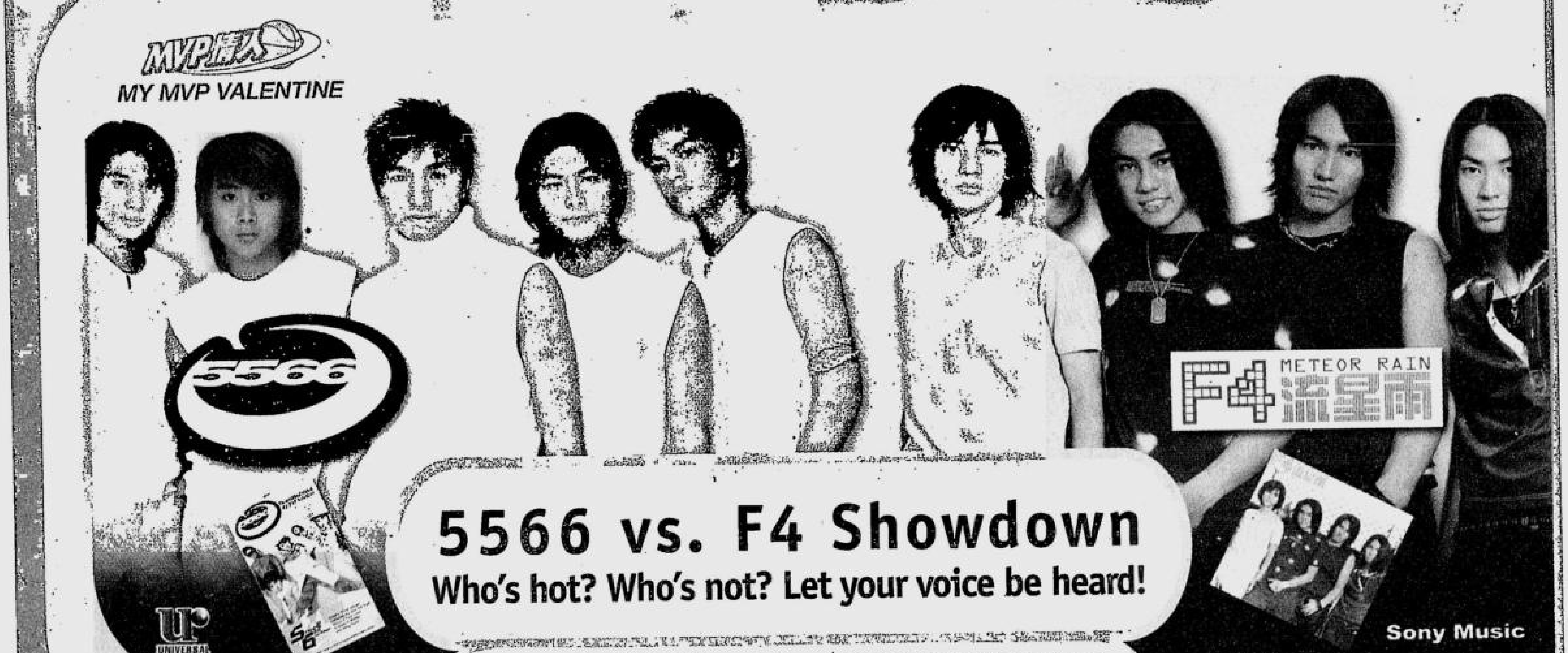

5566 vs. F4 Showdown
Who's hot? Who's not? Let your voice be heard!

Call 1•908•6968742 and show how much you love them.
Vote for your fave band and win free CDs!
Voting is open nationwide until July 31 only.

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Call using your PLDT landline with NDD touch card, Fonkard Plus, Telesulit or with your Smart and Talk 'N Text cellphone.

Features this July

1 myMusic Campus
Nina Jimmy & Nyoy- Live in Campus
Vote to bring Nina, Jimmy Bondoc & Nyoy Volante to your school!

2 myMusic Chat Room
Live Chat with Power Four
Chat with Jordan, Frank, Greg and James live over Wave 89.1 on July 9 & 16, 7pm

3 myMusic Listening Station
Televoting Showdown: F4 vs. 5566
1. Press 3 to vote.
2. Leave your name and contact number.
3. Wait for your vote reference number.

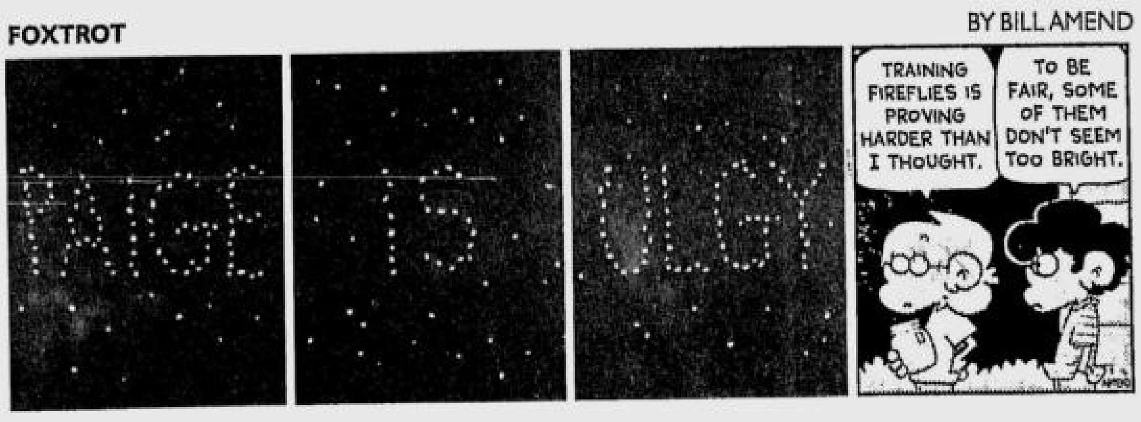
Win free CDs!
- First 50 F4 voters
- First 150 5566 voters

Listen to song previews & ringtones and reserve albums!

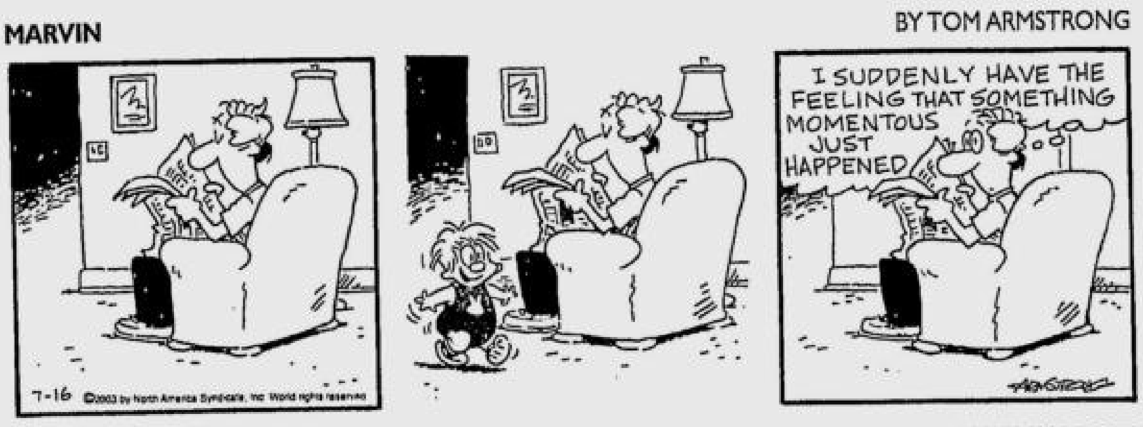
4 myMusic Bulletin
Winners list
Contest winners
Voice mail replies

PLDT

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


PAIGE IS UGLY
TRAINING FIREFLIES IS PROVING HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.
TO BE FAIR, SOME OF THEM DON'T SEEM TOO BRIGHT.

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I SUDDENLY HAVE THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING MOMENTOUS JUST HAPPENED
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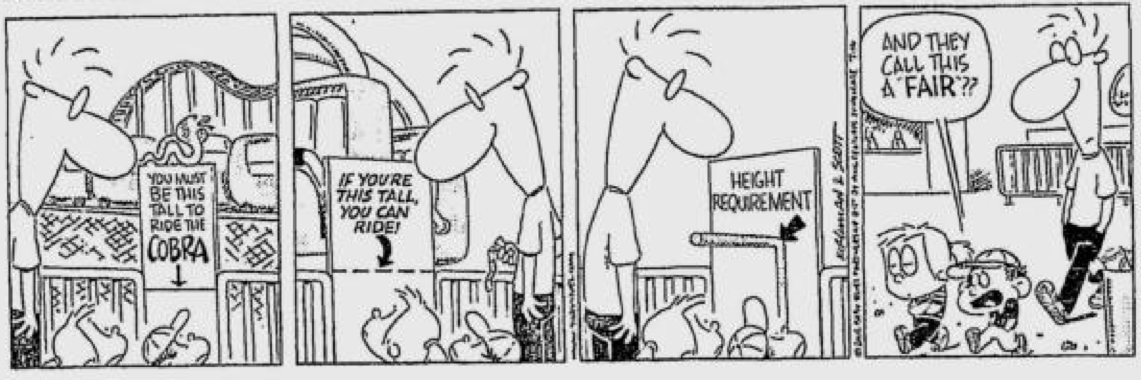
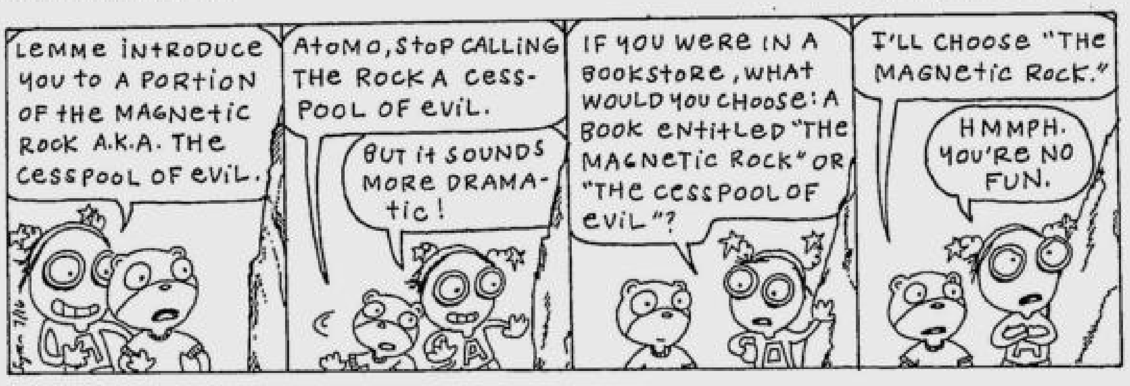
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU MUST BE THIS TALL TO RIDE THE COBRA
IF YOU'RE THIS TALL, YOU CAN RIDE!
HEIGHT REQUIREMENT
AND THEY CALL THIS A "FAIR"??

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LEMME INTRODUCE YOU TO A PORTION OF THE MAGNETIC ROCK A.K.A. THE CESSPOOL OF EVIL.
ATOMO, STOP CALLING THE ROCK A CESSPOOL OF EVIL.
BUT IT SOUNDS MORE DRAMATIC!
IF YOU WERE IN A BOOKSTORE, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE: A BOOK ENTITLED "THE MAGNETIC ROCK" OR "THE CESSPOOL OF EVIL"?
I'LL CHOOSE "THE MAGNETIC ROCK."
HMMPH. YOU'RE NO FUN.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a passionate soul. You are also tender and nurturing. But above all, you are a romantic who seeks adventure in life. Underneath this, you have a steady logic that makes you faithful to your cause. You love to teach. The year ahead holds exciting beginnings in many areas for you.
Birthdate of: Michael Flatley, dancer; Ginger Rogers, actress/dancer; Ruben Blades, actor/musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You are more concerned with practical, logical problems today. This allows you to make long-range plans that concern family and domestic matters. Your common sense pays off now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Advice from someone older can benefit you today. Do not be quick to judge the source of this advice. You can never judge a book by its movie.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with a boss, a parent or someone important can have a long-term impact on your earnings or your job. You can benefit from this encounter. Keep your ears open!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Make long-range plans about further education, long-distance travel or matters related to publishing and the media. You are very clear-headed and bright today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Exciting news about shared property, taxes, debt and insurance matters is possible today. Be quick to accept things that come your way, because your window of opportunity is brief.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone wiser and older or more experienced can help you today. This could be an old friend or a stranger you encounter in the general public. Be flexible with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to think about your life direction in general. Where do you want to be five years from now? What do you have to do today to begin to get there?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions about shared responsibilities regarding children or creative property are likely today. It's a good day to do business connected with the entertainment world.

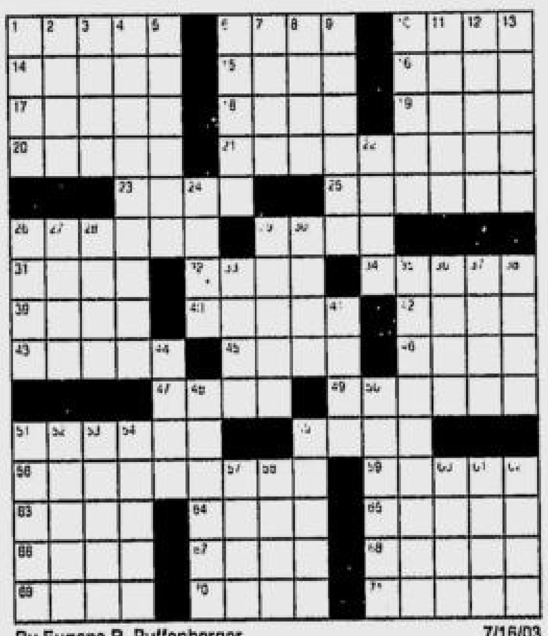
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're thinking about how to save money for a future rainy day. This is wise. Your sign is often very long-lived, which is why many of you work with older people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Serious discussions about how to maintain a relationship can be productive today. Even if your head is in the clouds, your feet are firmly on the ground.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't be afraid to act on ideas you have to improve your income or your job. Whatever you do will have long-lasting benefits in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel excited and restless today! A faint rebellion stirs within you. Don't worry—it's not going anywhere. It fades by evening to wait again for another day.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
7/16/03

ACROSS
1 Gravelly
6 Jezebel's idol
10 Sidling crustacean
14 Island farewell
15 Gillette razor
16 Charge per unit
17 "Call Me __"
18 Audible exhalation
19 Object of devotion
20 Sacred hymn
21 Bird with a distinctive beak
23 Space opening?
25 Optimistically
26 __ Nevada
29 Mediocre grades
31 Part of A.D.
32 Roe source
34 Raring to go
39 Halt
40 Nun's attire
42 Island feast
43 Sank (a putt)
45 In __ of
46 Military post
47 Age after Bronze
49 Seethed
51 New York lake
55 Ocean extract
56 Hooked-bill diving bird
59 Sag
63 Roundball target
64 Quaker State port
65 Teeming throng
66 Actual being
67 Outdoor gala
68 Broad tie
69 Film spool
70 French/Belgian river
71 Russian sovereigns

DOWN
1 Freeway entrance
2 Woe is me!
3 Soft drink
4 Sandpiper's cousin
5 Complain peevishly
6 Low voice
7 Leaning precariously
8 Jason's craft
9 City near Rawalpindi
10 Beds for babies
11 Wheel spokes
12 Bikini, e.g.
13 Breadbasket
22 Proboscis
24 Foolhardy
26 Window element
27 Division word
28 Organic compound
29 Type of fever?
30 Actress Falco
33 Head light?
35 Hooked-bill sea bird
36 Island in the Marianas
37 Let up
38 Regretted
41 Calcareous rock deposits
44 Prank
48 Make less dense
50 Trite
51 Earth tone
52 Hangman's knot
53 Gnawed-looking
54 Drive forward
55 Man the tiller
57 God of war
58 Evening in ads
60 Puget Sound whale
61 Smell
62 Teacher's favorites

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	E	E	N	■	N	A	T	E	S	■	L	A	P	P
A	C	N	E	■	O	V	I	N	E	■	A	G	R	A
C	O	V	E	R	T	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N
A	N	Y	■	A	R	C	S	■	■	S	E	N	S	E
■	■	■	B	R	A	E	■	A	V	E	N	G	E	S
V	E	I	L	E	D	T	H	R	E	A	T	■	■	■
E	X	C	U	S	E	■	A	I	T	■	■	O	D	E
A	P	O	R	T	■	O	R	E	■	R	A	V	E	L
L	O	N	■	■	P	U	T	■	C	E	R	E	A	L
■	■	■	H	I	D	D	E	N	A	G	E	N	D	A
L	A	C	O	S	T	E	■	O	T	I	S	■	■	■
A	G	A	M	A	■	■	E	V	E	N	■	G	I	S
U	N	D	E	R	C	O	V	E	R	A	G	E	N	T
D	E	R	R	■	B	R	I	N	E	■	U	R	G	E
A	W	E	S	■	S	A	L	A	D	■	S	E	E	P

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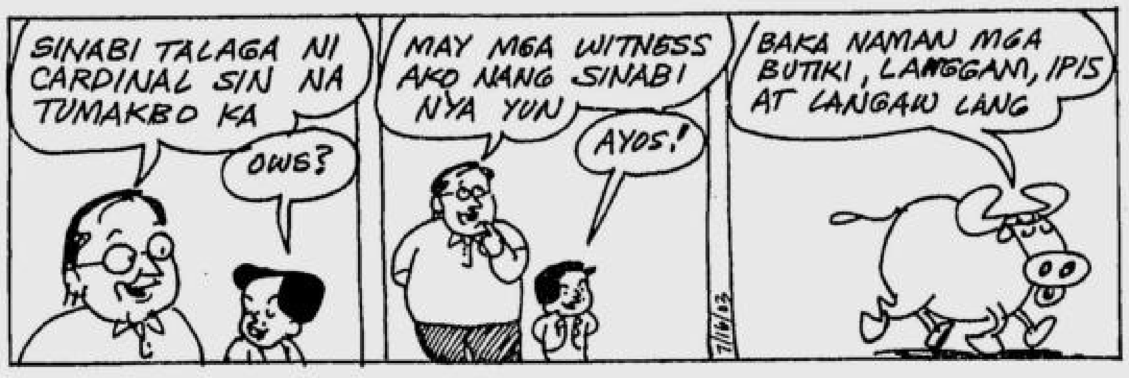
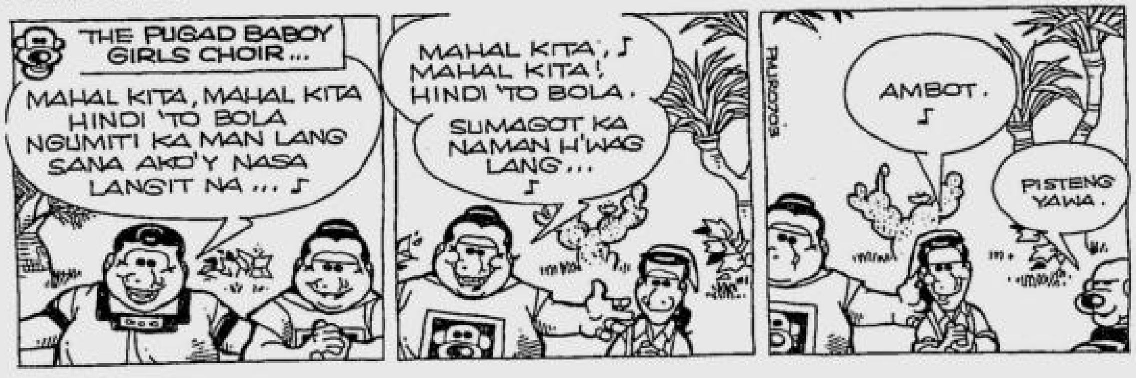
7/16/03

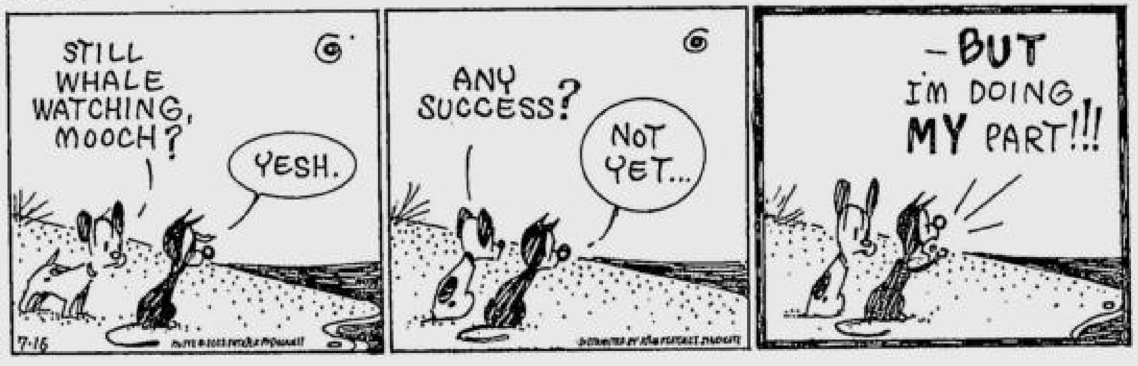
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SINABI TALAGA NI CARDINAL SIN NA TUMAKBO KA
OWS?
MAY MGA WITNESS AKO NANG SINABI NYA YUN
AYOS!
BAKA NAMAN MGA BUTIKI, LANGGAM, IPIS AT LANGAW LANG
7/16/03

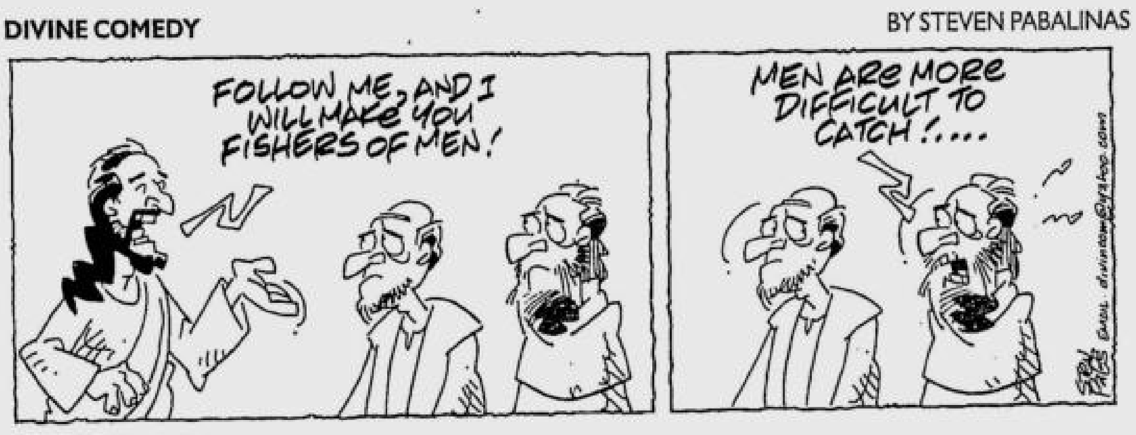
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


THE PUGAD BABOY GIRLS CHOIR...
MAHAL KITA, MAHAL KITA HINDI 'TO BOLA NGUMITI KA MAN LANG SANA AKO'Y NASA LANGIT NA... ♪
MAHAL KITA, ♪ MAHAL KITA! HINDI 'TO BOLA.
SUMAGOT KA NAMAN H'WAG LANG... ♪
PMJR0703
AMBOT. ♪
PISTENG YAWA.

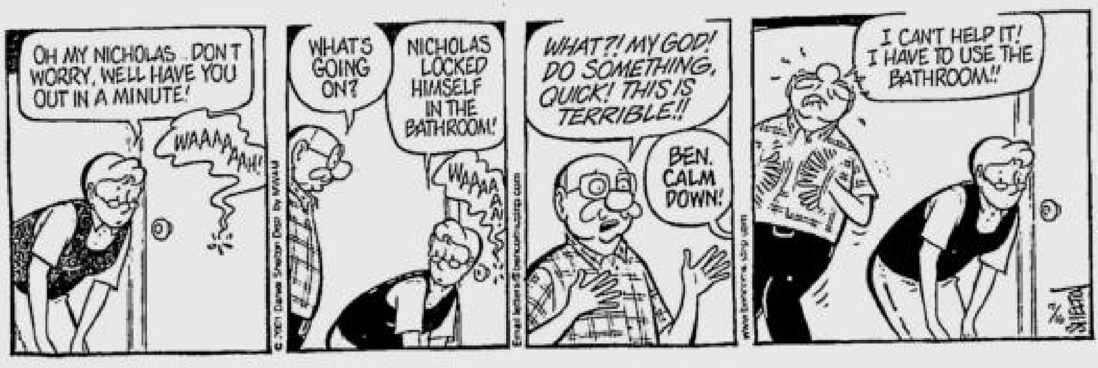
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


STILL WHALE WATCHING, MOOCH?
YESH.
ANY SUCCESS?
NOT YET...
-BUT I'M DOING MY PART!!!
7-16

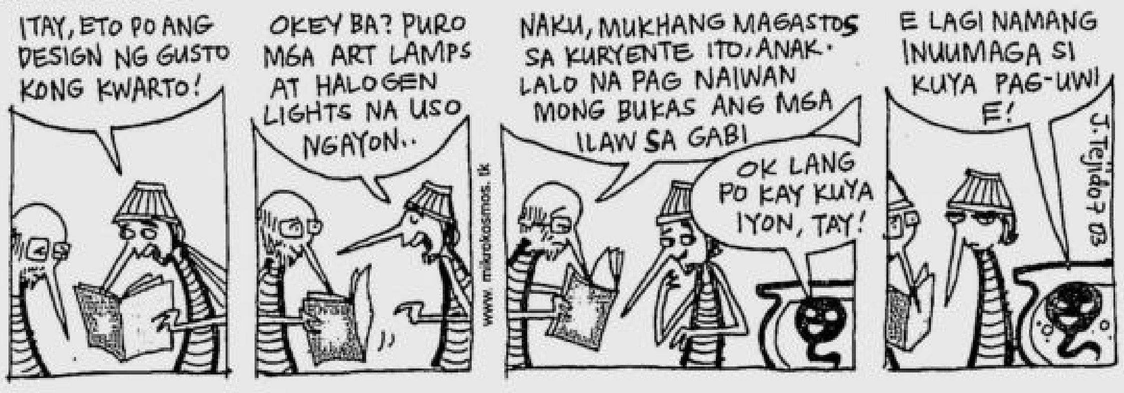
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN!
MEN ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO CATCH!....

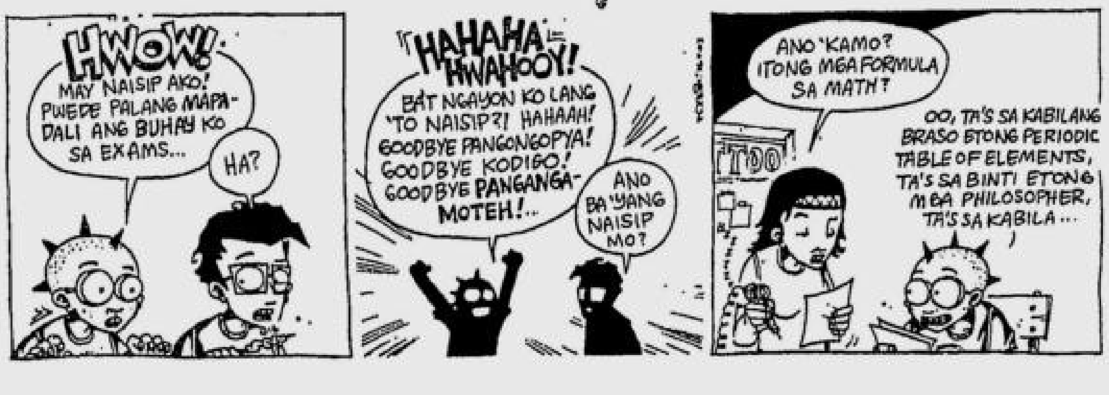
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH MY NICHOLAS...DON'T WORRY, WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A MINUTE!
WAAAAAAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NICHOLAS LOCKED HIMSELF IN THE BATHROOM!
WAAAAAAH!
WHAT?! MY GOD! DO SOMETHING, QUICK! THIS IS TERRIBLE!!
BEN. CALM DOWN!
I CAN'T HELP IT! I HAVE TO USE THE BATHROOM!!

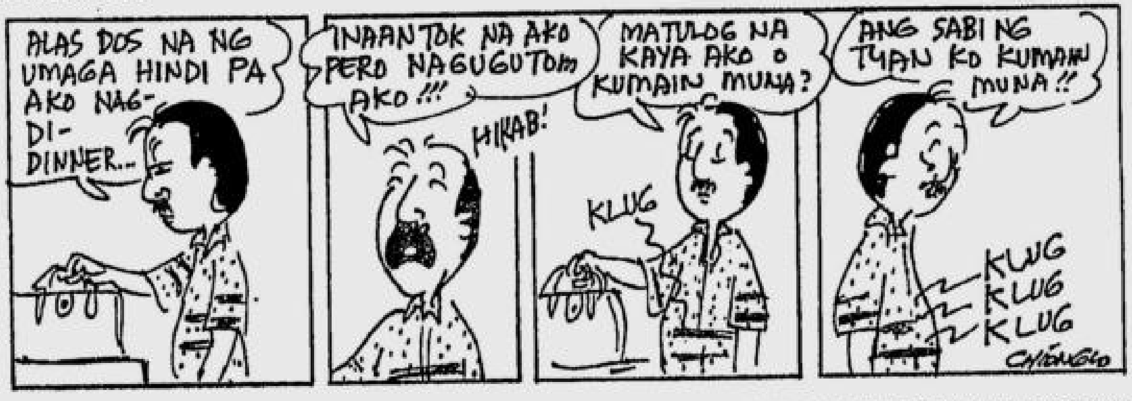
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ITAY, ETO PO ANG DESIGN NG GUSTO KONG KWARTO!
OKEY BA? PURO MGA ART LAMPS AT HALOGEN LIGHTS NA USO NGAYON..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
NAKU, MUKHANG MAGASTOS SA KURYENTE ITO, ANAK. LALO NA PAG NAIWAN MONG BUKAS ANG MGA ILAW SA GABI
OK LANG PO KAY KUYA IYON, TAY!
E LAGI NAMANG INUUMAGA SI KUYA PAG-UWI E!
J. Tejido 7 03

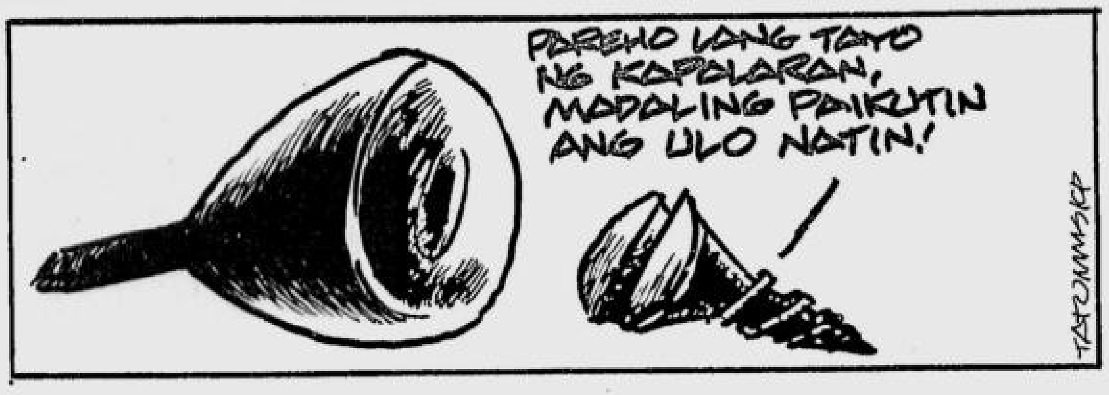
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW!
MAY NAISIP AKO! PUEDE PALANG MAPADALI ANG BUHAY KO SA EXAMS...
HA?
HAHAHA HWAHOOY!
BAT NGAYON KO LANG 'TO NAISIP?! HAHAAH! GOODBYE PANGONGOPYA! GOODBYE KODIGO! GOODBYE PANGANGAMOTEH!..
ANO BA 'YANG NAISIP MO?
ANO 'KAMO? ITONG MGA FORMULA SA MATH?
OO, TA'S SA KABILANG BRASO ETONG PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS, TA'S SA BINTI ETONG MGA PHILOSOPHER, TA'S SA KABILA...

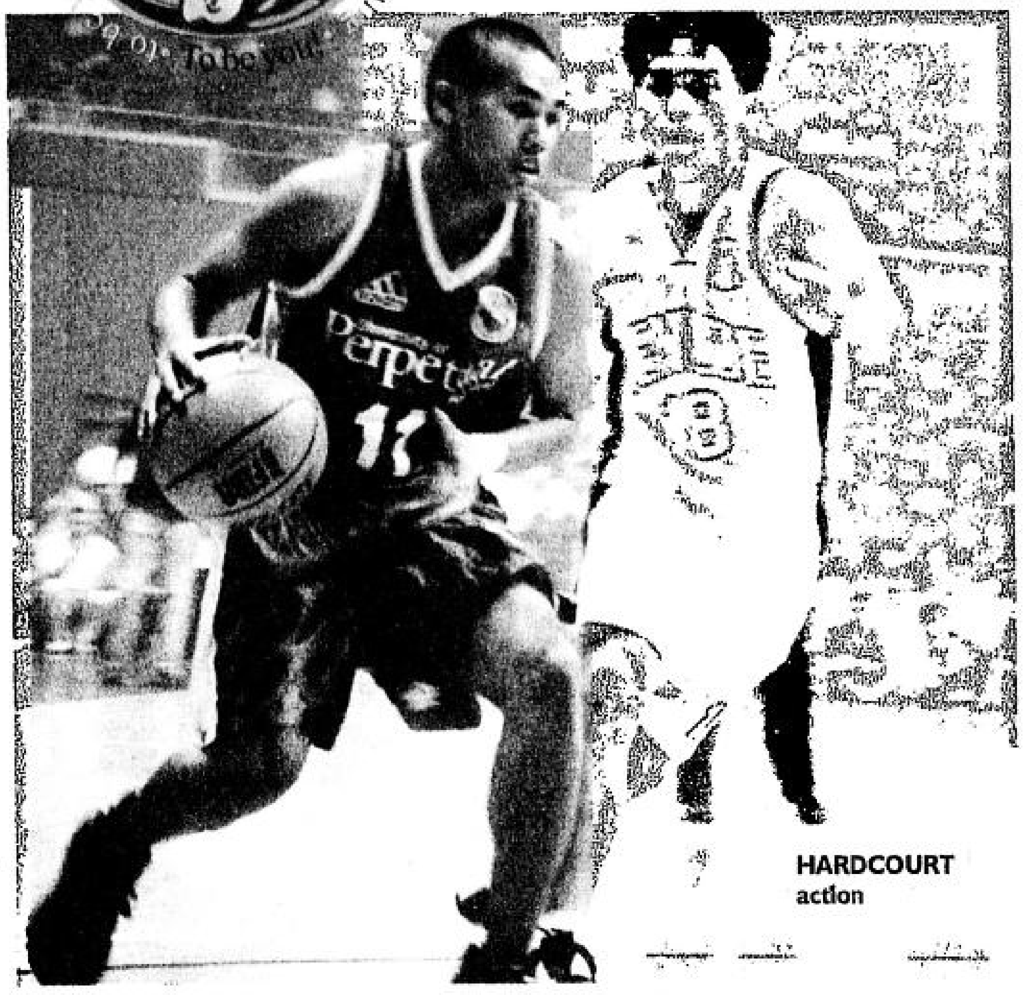
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAS DOS NA NG UMAGA HINDI PA AKO NAG-DI-DINNER...
INAANTOK NA AKO PERO NAGUGUTOM AKO!!!
HIKAB!
MATULOG NA KAYA AKO O KUMAIN MUNA?
KLUG
ANG SABI NG TYAN KO KUMAIN MUNA!!
KLUG
KLUG
KLUG
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAREHO LANG TAYO NG KAPALARAN, MADALING PAIKUTIN ANG ULO NATIN!
TATUMMSKP

THE OPENING game


HARDCOURT action

It's 'Perpetual' excitement at the NCAA

By defeating the Stags in an off-season tournament and Benilde in the opening, Perpetual Help shows it is the star to watch

Text and photos by Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

EIGHT teams, one family.

Last June 28, San Sebastian College-Recoletos hosted the grand opening of the 79th National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. The Araneta Coliseum was packed with students, faculty, administrators and well-wishers delirious with excitement and anticipation.

Outside the coliseum, the poised muses from the different colleges huddled together as the cheering teams practiced their choreographed routines for one last time.

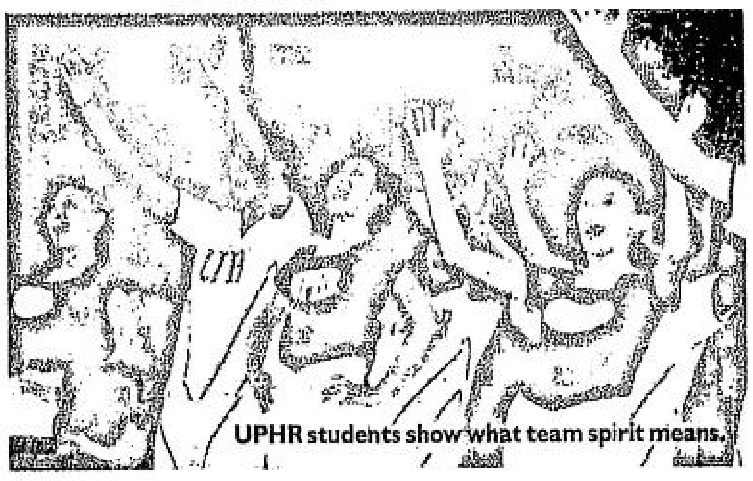
As I curiously moved with the crowd into the Big Dome, I could not help but wonder what magic was in store for us that afternoon.

The opening basketball game did not fail to live up to the crowd's expectations—it was a thrilling, heart-wrenching see-saw match between this year's two heavy favorites, the promising Blazers from the College of St. Benilde and the champions from the recently concluded Ambrosio Padilla Cup, the Altas from the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal.

After being left behind by 18 points, the Blazers were able to turn the game around and tie the score in the last quarter. The Altas, however, stood resilient and refused to be rattled by the pressure and pulled through with a win in the last few minutes of the game.

"There are no star players in this team," UPHR coach Arturo Cristobal said. "What we've got are players with the right attitude; and I think that even above talent or skill, attitude is first and foremost the most important element in coming up with a win."

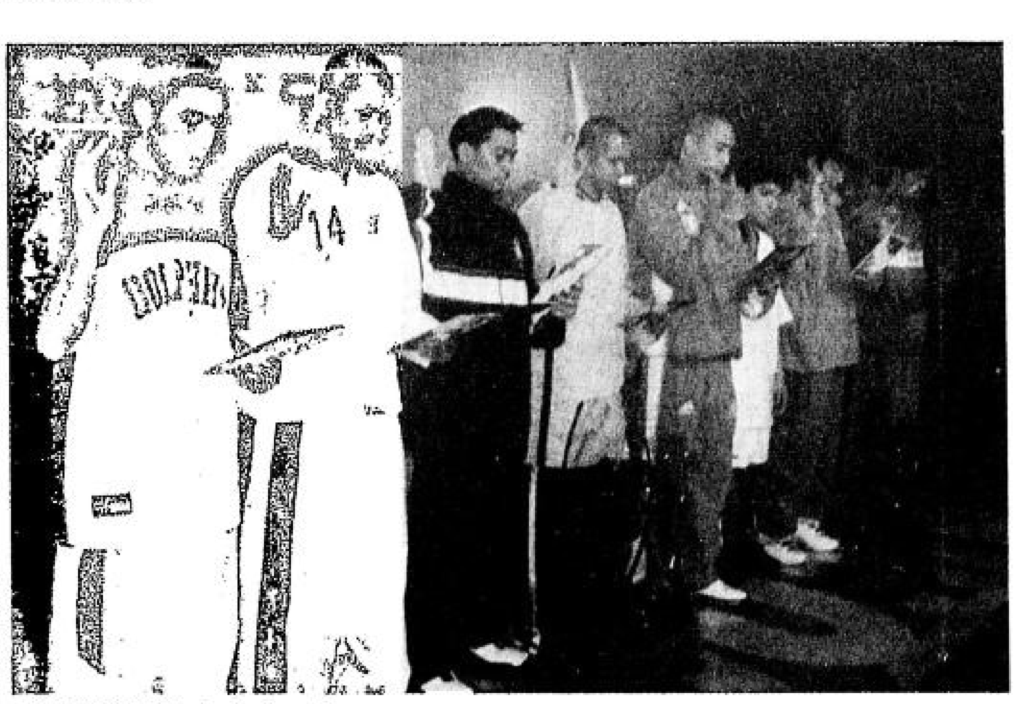
True enough, the UPHR is definitely a team to watch out for this year. After defeating the towering San Sebastian Stags (average height of players: 6'2"), 72-65, recently, the team's star is expected to rise even more in this season.

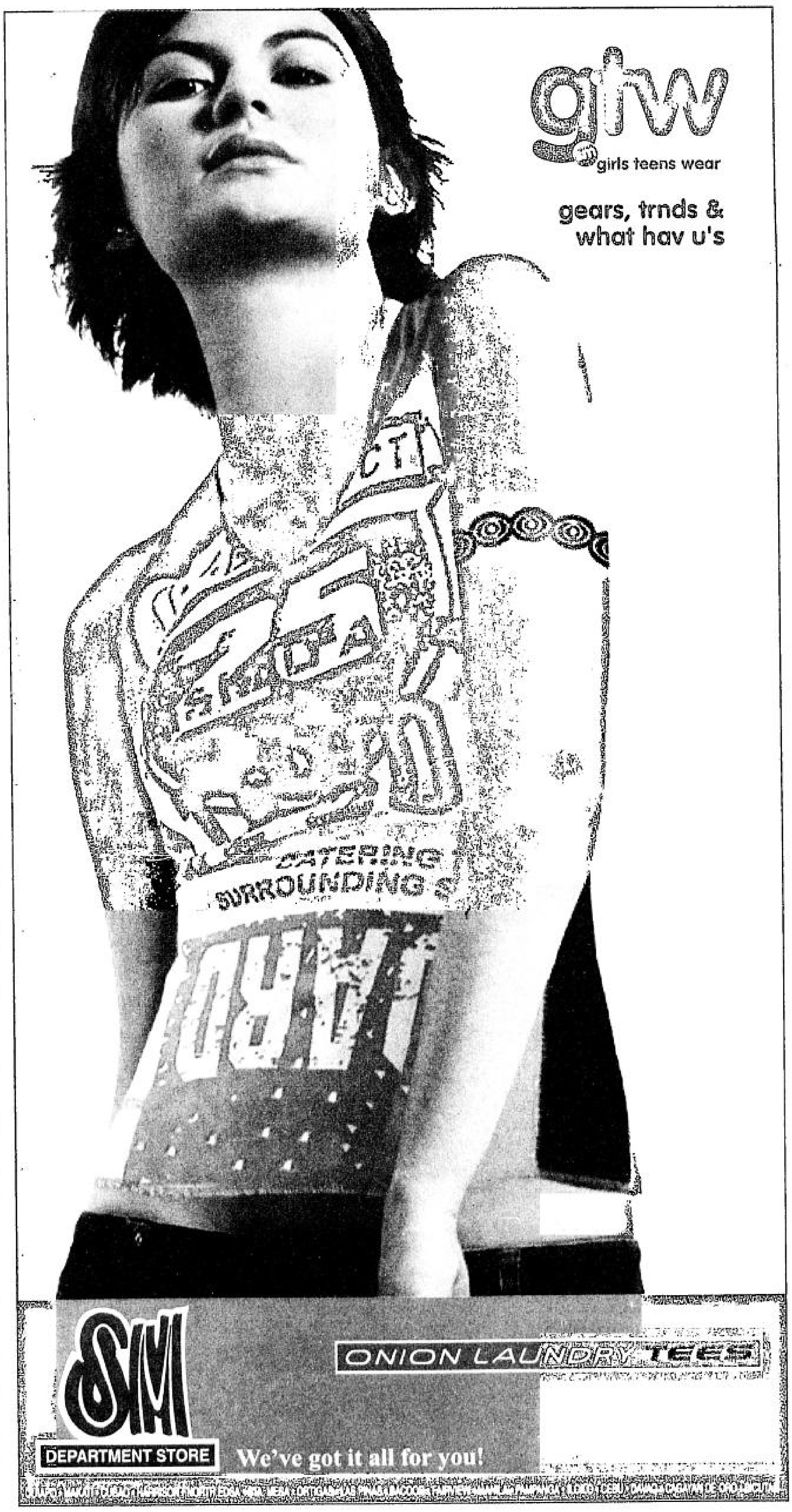

UPHR students show what team spirit means.

CHEERLEADERS at work

UPHR ball players have a good mix of right attitude and skills.

SHEER magic


THE PLAYERS take their oath.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'Bring it on' girls in Manila

AUDREY ASPREC. The trip is also a homecoming for the Fil-American cheerleader.

THE CHEERLEADERS are cheered on this time.

From page E1

prec were introduced to local media on July 3 in a press conference at the Manila Peninsula.

The dance team was in town to promote "NBA Madness," a month-long event inspired by the NBA All-Star Weekend, which has three-point shootouts and two-ball and Slam Dunk competitions.

"NBA Madness" made the rounds of six SM malls around the metro from May 30-July 6.

Off-season

Despite the relative inactivity of the NBA off-season, the Warrior Girls manage to keep themselves busy through, not surprisingly, dancing.

"I go to dance school three times a week," said Tomita, who just finished her first season in the cheering squad.

The light schedule is in sharp contrast to what they have during the season. On game days, the team rehearses three times a week and arrives at the venue at least two hours before tip-off. This is in addition to a rigorous training program.

Surprisingly, most of the Warrior Girls still hold day jobs. The only exception is Alexander, who works for the Warriors organization full-time as the dance team director.

King, the youngest at the age of 22, has a job with Guess Jeans. Wells, on the other hand, works for an investment firm that specializes in the bond market.

Tomita has a job in a Japanese trade company while Testa holds the position of manager in a store called The Dance Shop.

Some of the Warrior Girls have had previous cheerleading stints in professional sports. King, interestingly, was an Indoor Arena Football cheerleader before joining the Warriors. Alexander, on the other hand, used to work for her hometown's Houston Rockets.

Except for Alexander, none of the dancers has a sure spot on the squad next season. Every summer, the dance squad holds open auditions to select the squad's roster.

Homecoming

The trip was sort of a homecoming for Asprec, who visited the country for the third time.

Born to a father from La Union and a mother from Nueva Ecija, the 24-year-old grew up in Fresno.

Asprec proudly adds that she won Fresno's Miss Philippines pageant in 1996.

"It's sad that it's been so long since I've been here," said Asprec, who last came here as a child. Despite growing up far from the Philippines, Asprec said she had a constant reminder of her family's homeland. "In our house, my parents spoke Ilocano. Unfortunately, they never really took the time to teach us," she said.

For two years, Asprec lived in Daly City, which is nicknamed "Little Manila" by local residents.

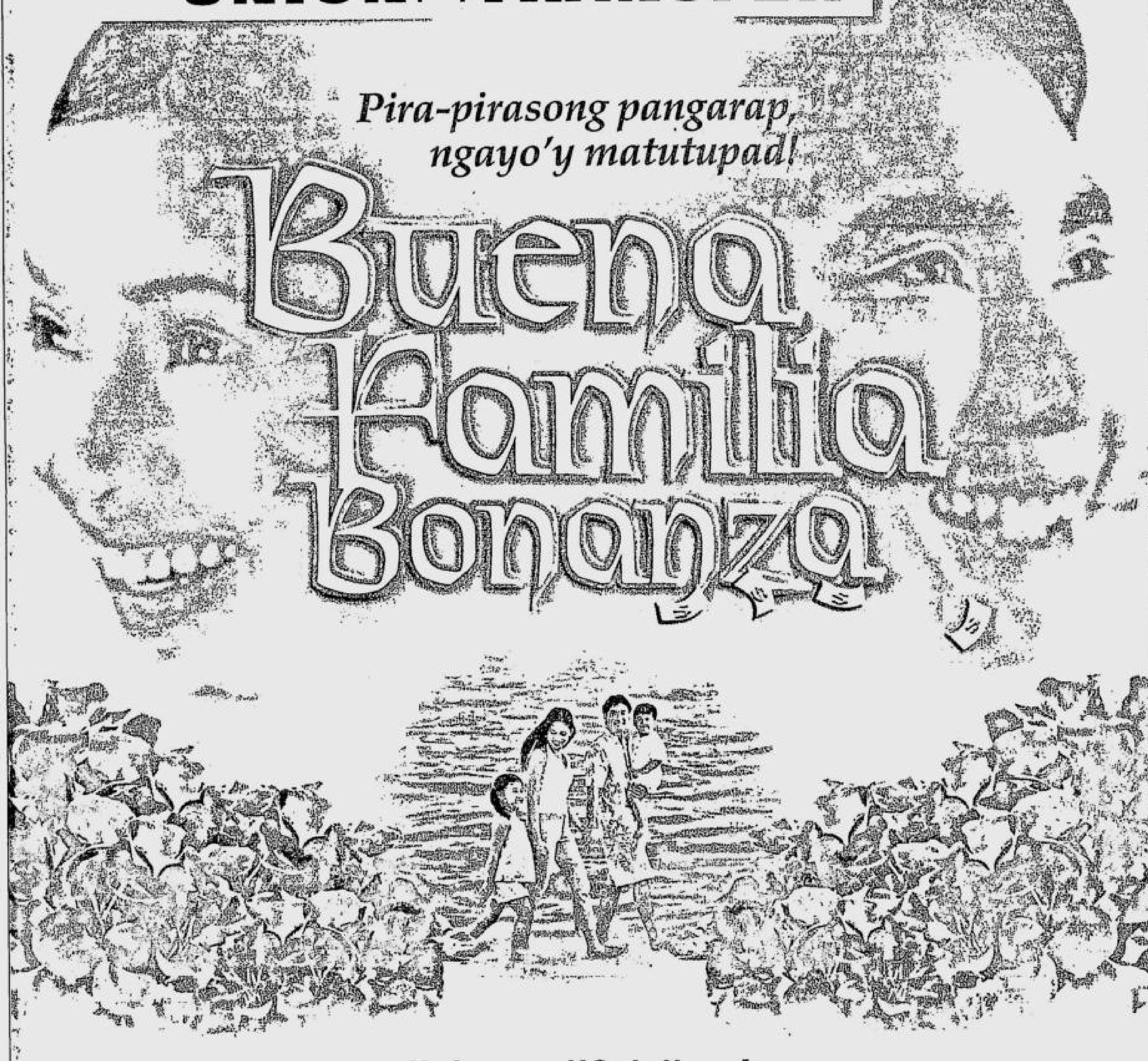
Dancing was a constant at the Asprec household. Asprec's parents were into ballroom dancing. In addition, she and two sisters took dance classes at a young age.

Asprec describes her inclusion in the Warriors dance squad as "a window of opportunity" that opened for her. "It made me reach for something bigger," she said.

"NBA Madness" was sponsored by Growee, Globe GenTXT and Solar Sports

MANAGER-SLASH-WARRIOR girl Jen Testa

FORMER Houston Rockets cheerleader Shelby Alexander



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Per DTI NCR Permit No.1039. Series of 2003.

LIFESTYLE

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SMITH (right) with fellow "Bad Boy" Martin Lawrence

D'Sound's music

By Angelo F. Comsti
Contributor

SIMONE, Kim and Jonny

IT is said that a musician's growth as an artist is measured by his most recent album. The ripeness of the lyrics, the unconventional rhythms, and the willingness to experiment with different genres can serve as proof of a musician's progress.

"Doublehearted," D'Sound's fourth album, shows the group's growing maturity. The 11 tracks in the album showcase the group's collective experience and devel-

D'SOUND'S/F3

2BU! EXCLUSIVE

Big Willie's way

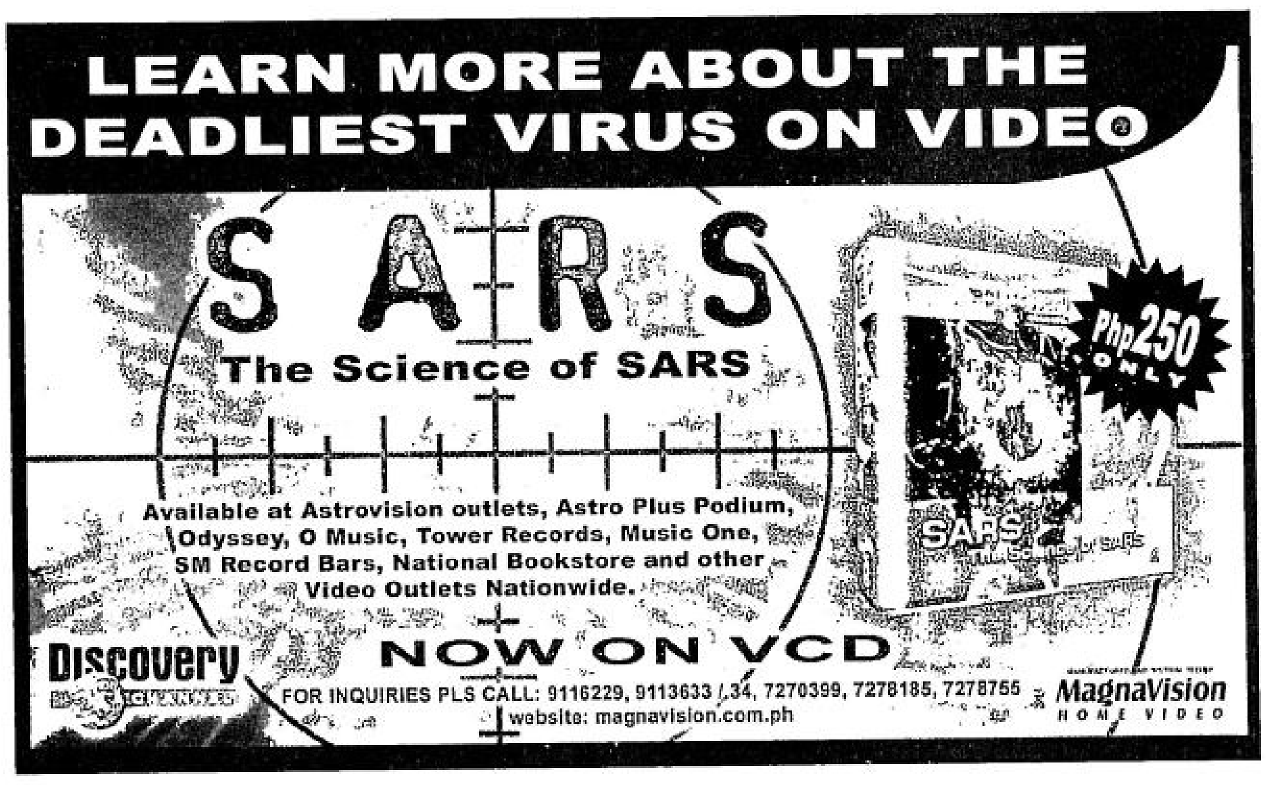
By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor

The white-hot Will Smith, star of the upcoming 'Bad Boys II,' shoots the breeze with 2bU!

CALL it a triumph of the Will. A decade ago, the name Will Smith conjured up the image of a lanky rapper-actor whose breezy hit songs ("Summertime," "Parents Just Don't Understand") and hit sitcom ("The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air") made him a popular MTV and prime-time staple, but an untested box-office draw.

Few would have guessed, then, that when Smith signed up to do a small cop-buddy movie with a fledgling stand-up comic (Martin Lawrence) and a first-time director (Michael Bay), it would transform the quirky, Philadelphia-born impresario into the most bankable African-American actor in Hollywood.

BIG/F2



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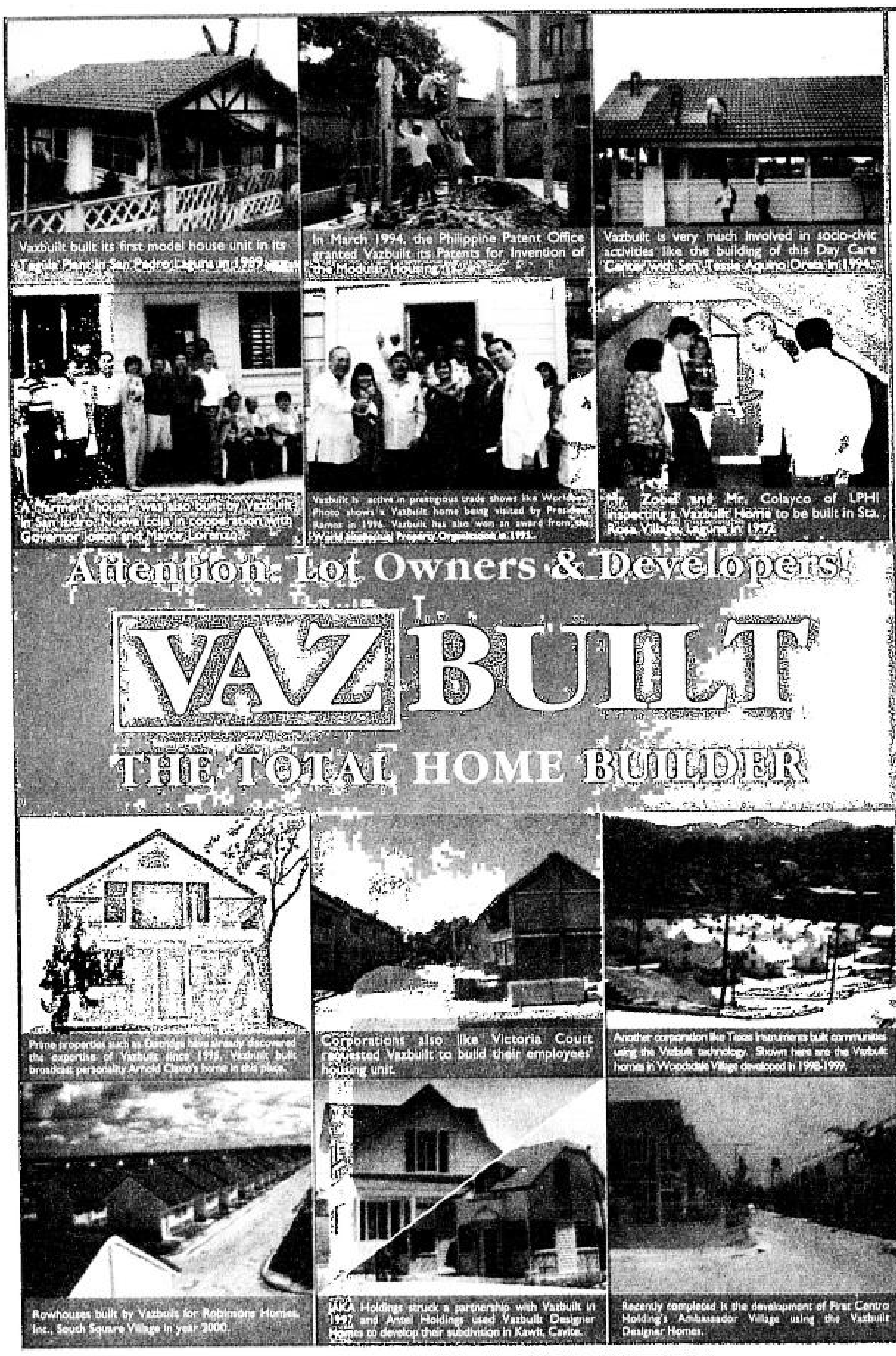

Vazbuilt built its first model house unit in its Textile Plant in San Pedro, Laguna in 1989.

In March 1994, the Philippine Patent Office granted Vazbuilt its Patents for Invention of the Modular Housing [illegible]

Vazbuilt is very much involved in socio-civic activities like the building of this Day Care Center with Sen. Tessie Aquino Oreta in 1994.

A farmer's house was also built by Vazbuilt in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija in cooperation with Governor Joson and Mayor Lorenzo.

Vazbuilt is active in prestigious trade shows like Worldbex. Photo shows a Vazbuilt home being visited by President Ramos in 1996. Vazbuilt has also won an award from the World Intellectual Property Organization in 1995.

Mr. Zobel and Mr. Colayco of LPHI inspecting a Vazbuilt Home to be built in Sta. Rosa Village, Laguna in 1992.

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Corporations also like Victoria Court requested Vazbuilt to build their employees' housing unit.

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Rowhouses built by Vazbuilt for Robinsons Homes, Inc., South Square Village in year 2000.

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See leaflets for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211, Series of 2003.

Big Willie's way

From page F1

"Bad Boys" grossed a surprising $65 million in the US, leading a charge of box-office juggernauts—including "Independence Day," "Enemy of the State," and the two "Men in Black" movies—that would eventually ring up over $2.5 billion worldwide.

Two years ago, Smith finally won critical acclaim. He earned an Oscar nomination for his lauded turn as the legendary boxer in "Ali"—the first rapper to make the unlikely leap from the Grammys to the Oscars.

Now, Smith revisits the film that got the ball rolling in "Bad Boys II."

The long-in-the-trenches sequel, which once seemed like a logistical and fiscal impossibility, reunites Smith with the now-hot Lawrence (who likewise hit it big with "Big Momma's House" and "Blue Streak") and Bay (who has blown up everything big, from boats in "Pearl Harbor" to an asteroid in "Armageddon"), as well as with Midas-touch blockbuster producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

In the film, Smith returns as Mike Lowrey, the suave but trigger-happy Miami cop who, with his pacifist but anger-repressed partner (Lawrence), attempts to bust an Ecstasy ring run by a Cuban drug lord.

Granted, nobody expects the film to earn Smith a second Oscar nod. But fans of the blow-'em-up school of filmmaking (a.k.a. every Bruckheimer film from "The Rock" to "Gone in 60 Seconds") will find lots to chew on, including exploding cars, exploding houses and—bring out those body bags now—exploding people. (The violence in "Bad Boys II" has been amped up considerably and will likely make many moviegoers wince.)

However, "Bad Boys II" does give Smith, who married actress Jada Pinkett in 1997, the opportunity to crank up the charm on screen—something that seems to also come effortlessly from him in person.

Smith met with 2bU! on a stifling summer day in Miami, where most of the film was shot. Dressed in a shiny black button-down shirt and dark-blue baggy jeans—his diamond earrings beaming like headlights from his famous, Dumbo-like ears—Smith exhibited a showman's flair.

He prefaced the interview with shouts of "Wassup! Wassup!" as he entered the room, constantly cracked jokes, and answered questions with the energy and enthusiasm of a kid overdosing on sugar.

Smith is, essentially, a live-action version of one of his music videos: animated, engaged and rhythmic.

Here, he tells 2bU! about his modest sitcom beginnings, his unexpected box-office rise, and how, when it comes to women, laughter can be more than just the best medicine.

When "Bad Boys" hit theaters in 1995, you were a successful, Grammy-winning artist but a box-office wild card. Eight years later, your films have grossed over $2 billion. How does it feel to go back to the movie that jump-started your film career?

It was definitely the beginning, the first "Bad Boys," which is a big part of why it took so long to do another one.

It was the beginning for Michael Bay, for Martin and for me, so it has a really sentimental space in our hearts. "Bad Boys" also has a really weird underground following to it. We would have been crucified if we didn't do it right.

"Bad Boys II" still has the high-on-testosterone feel of the first one, but this time you went way beyond in terms of the scale of the action and the amount of violence.

We tried to take everything up a couple of notches. The first film barely cost $18 million to make. And for $18 million, you couldn't get the first four minutes of this movie.

Well, it is a big-budget summer blockbuster film and makes no pretenses about that.

"Bad Boys II" is, straight down the middle, almost the perfect action movie. There are no social ramifications, there's no deeper message, no hidden agenda. It is just raw adrenaline and comedy.

It's almost like an amusement ride where you're not supposed to get anything out of it but joy. The reason I like to make summer movies is I always love the energy and the excitement of going to the movie theater to see something that you've been waiting for four months to see.

A large part of what made the first film work was the irreverent, no-holds-barred repartee between you and costar Martin Lawrence.

He's hilarious because he's a comedy machine. I'm an actor who can be funny.

[It's] a whole different world for a comedian, someone who gets paid to be funny. They just turn the camera on, and he can do 10 or 15 different takes with no rehearsal, nothing. And he's so free and comfortable to say anything that comes to his mind that even if it doesn't make sense, it's hilarious.

I'm just not comfortable like that. I'm like, "Whoa, let's talk through the script and figure it out so I know what I'm supposed to do when I get out there."

You dodge your fair share of bullets in this movie. Have you ever been shot at in real life?

Oh yeah, once or twice. A couple of times it was my fault. But for the most part, people were just being mean to me. I've never actually been shot, so that's a good thing. I was shot at.

Care to elaborate?

It's a long story, but I guess the most recent one was about 10 years ago. The first time I got shot at, I was young. I was 16. And it was like a cool thing. It was like, "Yeah, yeah, he shot at me. He didn't hit me, though. He's lucky he didn't hit me."

It was my fault the next time. It was in Albany, Georgia. I punched a guy and knocked him down. And then he was shooting [during] a high-speed chase in the highway, shooting at the truck that I was in.

So it's not that different from what happens in this film.

Well, it's a little scarier in real life because in the movie it's just loud sounds. But in real life, it's actually slugs hitting the truck.

Does it seem crazy to you that your early '90s TV series, "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," is still popular around the world? It's actually what many people first remember about you.

What's most insane to me is it's bigger in syndication that when it was actually on [the air]. That just doesn't happen. A television show doesn't get bigger when if goes off the air. The reason it went off the air was that it wasn't doing well anymore. And then to have a resurgence...

Back then, with "Fresh Prince" and with your rap music, you established a laid-back, happy-go-lucky persona. Yet the "Bad Boys" character you play, Mike Lowrey, seems to be your total opposite: a tough-talking, gut-instinct kind of guy who isn't afraid to jump into a brawl. How much of you is actually in this character?

Michael Lowrey is definitely my alter-ego. Miami really pulls that impetuous, intuitive energy out of me. I think Will Smith subdues the Mike Lowrey that lives in there because I've never in my life been considered sexy. I always get women with my jokes. You know, if you make 'em laugh, for some reason their panties come off (laughs and then catches himself). I'm sorry—I don't mean to be crude. If you make 'em laugh, then you've got it.

But as the Fresh Prince, you were always the wholesome rapper-next-door type—even if that seems an oxymoron.

"Bad Boys" brought out that strength and that confidence to be able to look at a woman (his voice trails off, he puckers his lips and then gives a seductive, come-hither look)...

"HE'S hilarious because he's a comedy machine," says Smith of costar Lawrence, shown with him at left in a scene from their new movie.

'I've never in my
life been
considered sexy
I always get
women with my
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Smith

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I've never been able to do that. I sat in the back of the theater for the first "Bad Boys" and a scene came up in slow-motion [in which a pumped up Smith runs with his shirt flying open] and I heard a woman go, "Mmmm." I was like, "Wow." She really meant that. She belted something. But that was for me? That was kind of cool.

Well, after getting all pumped up in 2001 for your role in "Ali," you said you felt like a human Viagra. "Willagra" is how you put it, which must have pleased your wife.

She was very pleased. She wanted me to talk to her like Ali. "So big and strong," you know?

And now she's all pumped up for her role in "The Matrix" sequels.

It's beautiful. We're gonna have to let ourselves get back out of shape or someone's gonna get killed (laughs).

E-mail the author at alexisloinaz@yahoo.com

D'Sound's music

From page F1

opment since its humble beginnings back in 1993. As Jonny, the band's bass player says, "It [the album] is just different. It describes how we evolved from record to record. We just sound different."

TALKIN' TALK. Not just that "Nokia band."

Instant fame

Simone (vocals), Kim (drums) and Jonny were well-known advocates of acid jazz, alongside recognized artists Brand New Heavies and Mother Earth. Their debut album "Spice of Life," released in 1997, brought them instant recognition. The tracks "Smooth Escape," "All I Wanna Do" and "Love Is on My Way" made it big not only in Norway but internationally as well.

The album was well-received by critics and fans alike and got a couple of nominations from the "Spellemannpriser," the Norwegian equivalent of the Grammys.

D'Sound began working on its follow-up album, "Beauty Is a Blessing," after some successful shows in Norway and several international gigs. The band came up with a selection of songs that was distinctive but consistent in quality. The platinum album earned for D'Sound a Spellemanpris as Best Norwegian Pop Group (1998).

Kim, Jonny and Simone were more hands-on in their third album ("Talkin' Talk") as its producers. The result was 13 American R&B tracks that proved to be nothing short of phenomenal, with the title track becoming Nokia's television ad anthem. The album opened new markets for the band and and sold astonishingly well in the Southeast Asian region.

Although D'Sound apparently did not mean to "change" its music with each album, it was glad with the way things turned out. "We just do what's on our mind. Our record label wanted us to do whatever we felt like because they wanted to bring out a hundred percent of what we had inside. That's how it is to be an artist really, you have to follow your heart," explained Kim in a previous interview.

> The band seems to be in a class by itself, its music unique yet universal

Doubly good

After 10 years in the business, D'Sound continues to play the kind of music that makes a listener tap his foot or bob his head. "Doublehearted" may seem far from the roots of acid jazz but it is undeniably better and more likeable.

Just how has D'Sound's music evolved? Even Simone finds the question not easy to answer. "Well, it's hard to say because I think, sometimes, we're too close to the music to describe it. We are not trying to stay within some borders or some style. Normally, we say we do pop music with the flavors of soul, disco, Latin and, these days, spices of rock." Simply put, it is in a class by itself, unique yet universal.

The band's growth is evident in their lyrics as well. The 11 tracks written by the group itself generally speak of what D'Sound has gone through in its still young career. "It is an album with various feelings, various desires," Jonny says.

One of the tracks, for instance, was inspired by Simone's escapades here in the country. "After we quit working in Manila (October 2002), they [Jonny and Kim] went back to Norway while I went to Boracay," she excitedly recalls. "I had the best of time there. And I actually wrote some lyrics in 'Doublehearted' [about what happened] in Boracay. For the single 'Dancing in The Moonlight,' Kim and Jonny basically wrote the track but I finished the lyrics, [putting] in some of my dreams and visions from Boracay. I just love the place."

Knowing how much better "Doublehearted" turned out, the band could not be prouder of its new album. "I think that this is a more terrific album than the two previous ones," Simone claims. "It's more relaxed. We didn't try to prove anything. We were very humble when we went into the studio. Nothing was stressful and I think you can hear that in the album. We made one of our most uplifting albums to date. I can say that it's a very positive album in many ways."

Jonny adds, "It's an album with a lot of various tunes, an album that's a little bit more rock. We haven't put a lot of guitars in our music before... Now, we really let it loose. It may be the most live-sounding album we have ever done. It's pretty melancholic and (also) happy in a way. It's a mixture."

Brighter future

D'Sound's passion for its music has become more obvious with the passing years. Each album is better than the last. If the members' development as artists is measured by their latest album, then it seems safe to say that they are well on their way to an even more successful musical career.

"We are the type of band that likes to give ourselves, our everything," Jonny stresses. "We write music and lyrics straight from our hearts and we love sharing it. We simply can't hide it. When we're on stage, we enjoy [ourselves] so much... We play and have fun. That's just the way we are."

Simone adds, "And as always, we just want to touch them (the audience). What you do with the CD is up to you. I think once you make music, you just have to let it go and let people do what they want to do with it."

With "Doublehearted," though, it seems best to keep it in the player to be listened to anytime.

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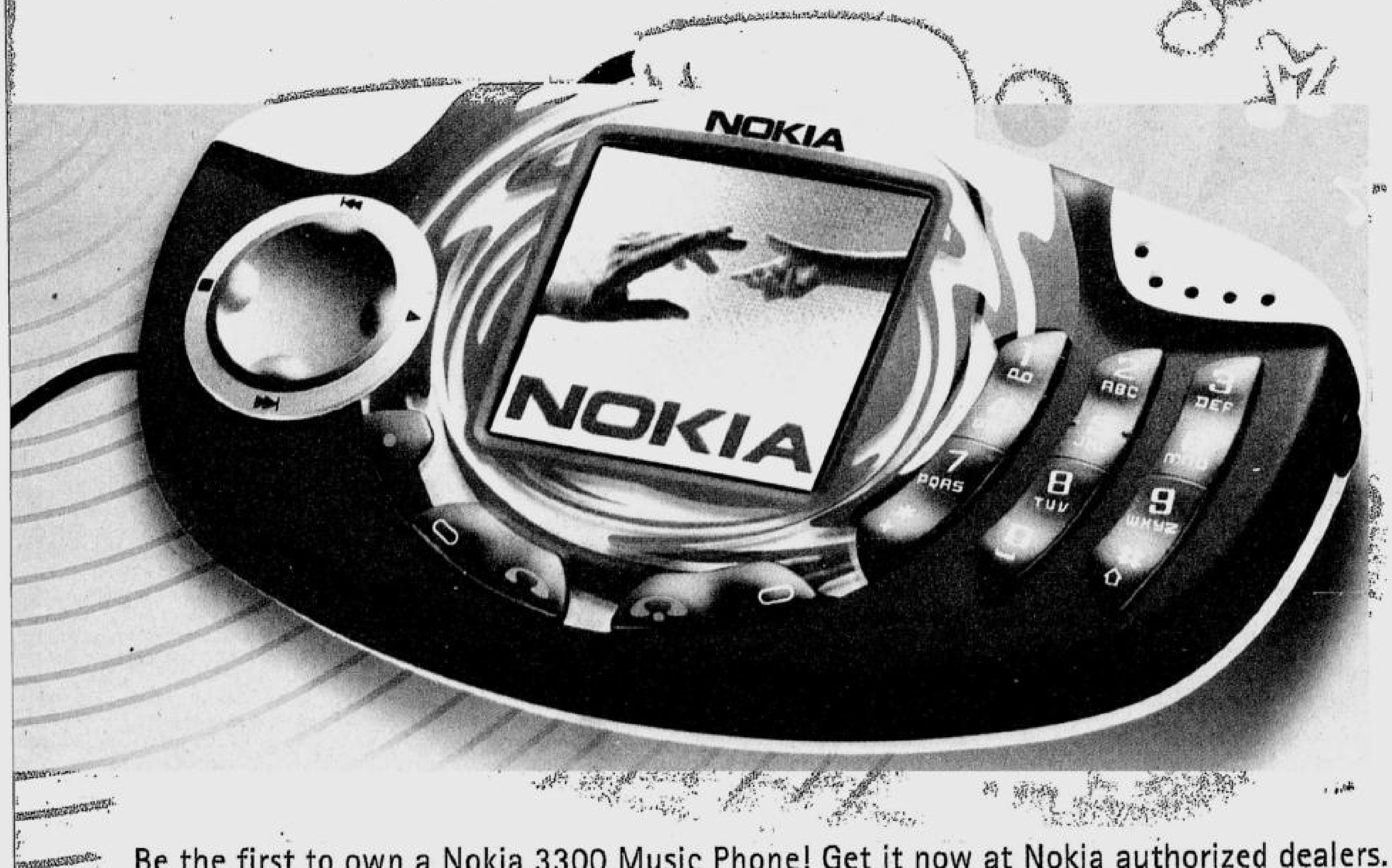

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Putting 'spunk' back in 'emo punk'

The Ataris is sticking to a theme it knows best

So Long Astoria
The Ataris
Sony Music Philippines

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

REVIEW

IN THIS day when kids declare Avril Lavigne as the epitome of punk and prefer to play air guitar to bands like Sum 41 than the Ramones, it's hard to find a good punk album with music that doesn't reek of commercialism and revel in the fact that: a) no one really ever understands it; b) girls don't really want to date the people who wrote it; and c) they, the music's authors, are bound to be losers for life so they better sulk now.

Green Day appears to have lost its glitter to the high school and college crowds, so let's thank The Ataris for coming out with its fourth album that puts the "spunk" back in emo punk.

On its major label debut, The Ataris strives to prove that the jump from Kung Fu records doesn't mean it's been eaten up by the "evil" record industry machine. While it has lots of competition now—Saves the Day, Simple Plan, and label mates Good Charlotte, to name a few—it has stuck to a theme it knows best: that growing up is fun, that girls will always break your heart and, no matter what you do, s**t happens.

While most bands cry and whine over why girls never go for the "skater bois", The Ataris actually tells kids to get off their butts and do something about it. The first line of the title track, "So Long Astoria", goes, "Life is only as good as the memories we make," a clear sign that The Ataris have grown up.

To the group, the memories are not about crashing at a friend's house with a six-pack and playing video games all day, but reminiscing about lying on the grass underneath the stars and taking road trips with people that matter. Never mind if you weren't around in 1979 to have your radio blaring, "We Are the Champions", or "make history tonight" ("Summer of '79"). You can play "Summer '97" right before graduation.

And years from now, you can spin "Looking Back on Today" and recall loves lost and found ("If only I had one wish / I'd want a million trillion lifetimes / that I could spend with you / Fall in love with you / again and again").

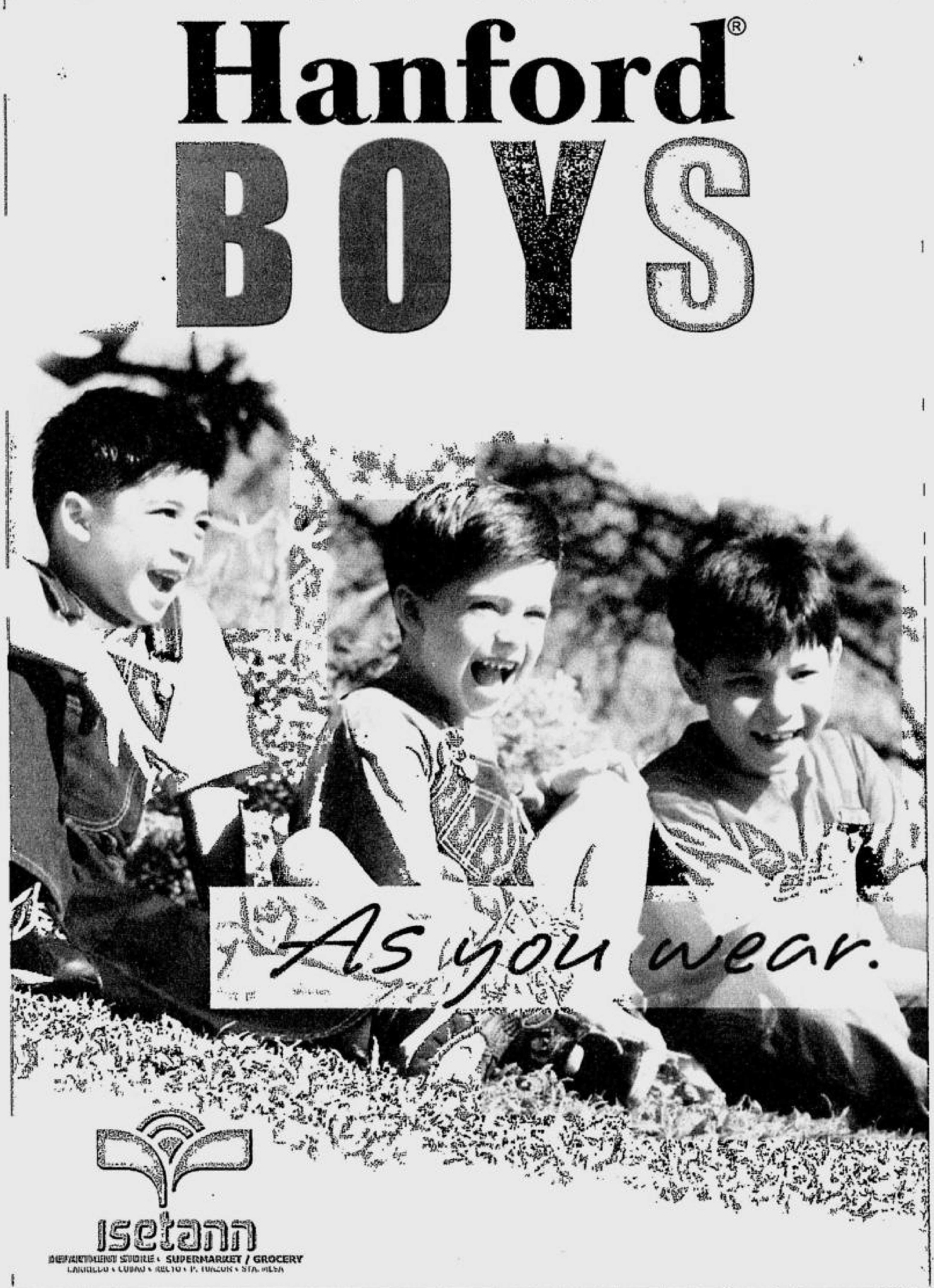
Singer Kris Roe also touches on other subjects that you won't find in other pop punk albums. Granted that "The Saddest Song" is an unhappy piece on fatherhood (not many of the group's fans can really relate to the topic), but it has the kind of honesty that makes The Ataris so appealing.

Roe has something for kids on the rollercoaster of life, from a contemplation of existence ("If I died tomorrow, would this song live forever? / And here's my unopened letter / to a world that never shall reply"—"Unopened Letter") to doubts about commitment and, of course, living life to the fullest amid the evils of the world ("Please don't forget how small we really are / because nothing really matters when we're gone"—"All You Can ever Learn Is What You already Know").

A revamped "I Won't Spend Another Night Alone", off their first album, "Blue Skies, Broken Hearts...Next 12 Exits", and an acoustic version of "The Saddest Song" are added as bonus tracks at the end of the album.

Maybe The Ataris has some things in common with many new bands today. Roe is still hung up on his ex-girlfriend, Denice, whom he's mentioned in all his albums. And the group included a cover on its album-Don Henley's "Boys of Summer".

One thing's for sure. The band won't be predicting what the Year 3000 will be like. So have fun, be crazy because the future is in your hands. Roe declares, "Being grown up / Isn't half as fun as growing up / These are the best days of our lives."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Longtime crush hinders her from moving on

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino

I'VE been in love with this guy since I was 13. We're not friends but we know each other. I'm 16, he's 18.

Then here comes Mr. Guy. Mr. Guy is one of my friends. He asked me if I can give him a chance to love me, meaning he wants me to be his girlfriend. I didn't know what to say. If I gave him a chance, it would be unfair because my heart belongs to someone else and Mr. Guy might get hurt. I don't want that to happen.

I know I should move on because there's no way I could be more than friends with my crush. We belong to different religions. What do you think I should do? Mr. Guy isn't the only one who took a risk of courting me. And all of them, I didn't give any chance because of my crush. Please help.

WATER-BUBBLES

Water-bubbles, you are one considerate lady. I wish there were more girls who are like you—girls who don't string along clueless guys while they're actually waiting for someone better to show up.

It's good that you know what, or rather who you want; that you won't settle for anything else until you feel that you could; and that you are giving others the chance to know which options are open to them and which are not.

On the other hand, though, you drag yourself down by closing off your own options at the slightest sign of adversity.

Now, state one believable and unexaggerated reason why it is impossible for you to be more than a friend to your crush: Age gap? He's only two years older, and stranger May-December romances have happened .

Religious differences? There's always conversion and compromise. Besides, unless one of you is a zealot, this matter can be settled through communication.

No existing relationship stable enough to improve on? You can always establish one, and God knows there have been enough tips from just about every advice columnist that you could get ideas from.

Water-bubbles, dear, while you're being practical in dealing with other people's feelings, you enlarge your littlest worries in turn and cause your own misery.

Be nice to yourself and lighten up! Don't hold yourself back with unnecessary negativity. You know the Filipino proverb, "*Kung ayaw, may dahilan; kung gusto, may paraan*"? Well, we both know what you want.

Now, you just have to let your feelings guide you into finding the right way to get your heart's dearest wish.

SEP

Your miserable and pathetic almost-life as an unattached individual should be blamed on your fondness for desperately clinging on to something that you know shall never be yours.

Although I believe that differences in religion or choice of sprinkles can't stop true love, I shall go with your flow and subscribe to the notion that you and your crush do not have a pastel future together. Since you can't see even his shadow in your wedding, stop whining and go give Mr. Guy the chance you know he so deserves. The simple fact that you don't want to see him hurt is an indication of the possibility that he can meet you at the altar, or maybe just the mall for a date to start with.

Make a mental roll call of all the drool-worthy dudes you let go of just because of the crush who couldn't even be your friend. Go down on bent knees, clasp your hands in prayer and be grateful for heaven-sent Mr. Guy.

Remember, blowing bubbles is fun, but doing it 24/7 will bore you into a coma. Don't let life pass you by. Don't let too much "The Poor Prince" viewing ruin your happily-ever-after with your real prince charming.

MARK

PHILAM LIFE

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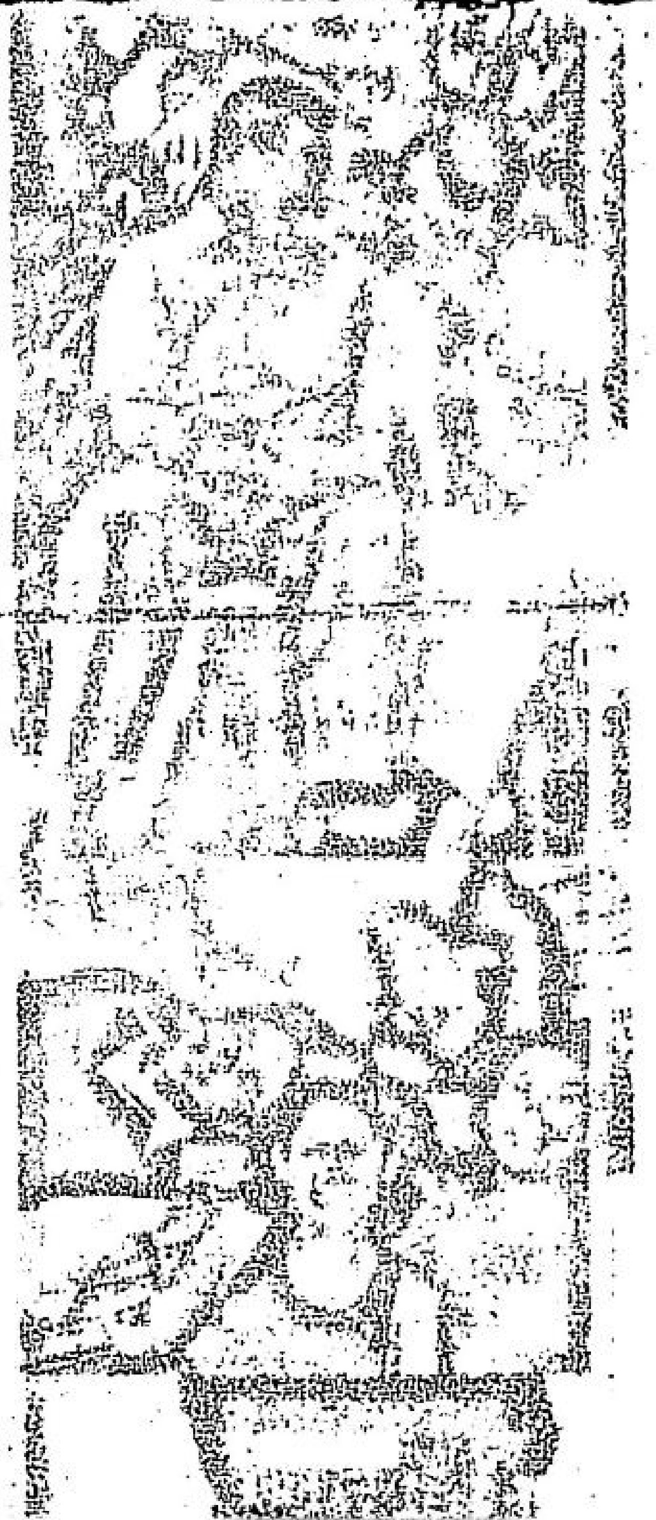


Are you ready for LIFE?

Ensuring good health and financial security

DOH FACILITATES BETTER HEALTH CARE

PREVENTION BEST DEFENSE AGAINST CANCER

Image from www.gettyimages.c

Photos by Edwin S. L

Are you ready for life?

> We live in a world fraught with a greater degree of personal risk than ever before. The pressures of modern living have created new dangers to personal safety.

LIFE can take alarming twists and turns in a matter of moments. An automobile accident takes a life or maims for life. A routine visit to the doctor reveals a critical illness. A call to the manager's office precedes retrenchment. A bank closes and a lifetime of savings vanishes. A sudden heart attack or stroke drains and exhausts the carefully built-up retirement funds of an old couple.

We live in a world fraught with a greater degree of personal risk than ever before. The pressures of modern living have created new dangers to personal safety. While we have the potential of living longer because of advances in medical science, there are new diseases that can end life abruptly.

Sometimes, living a healthy lifestyle is also no guarantee that one will not get sick. Nowadays, nonsmokers get stricken with lung cancer. Whether this is due to sidestream smoke or air pollution is a moot point. The fact is, it can happen.

Some diseases arise from environmental factors which are totally beyond one's control. A stagnant pool becomes the breeding ground for *dengue*-carrying mosquitoes. A clogged *estero* causes floodwaters that carry *Leptospirosis* organisms from rat wastes. A returning traveler from a SARS-infected country is met by a whole busload of friends and relatives at the airport. A quick meal at a roadside *turo-turo* is laced with deadly *hepatitis*.

But one doesn't have to contract a disease to require medication or hospitalization. Just take a walk along Manila's streets. You could get sideswiped or even run down by reckless buses. Or your car could get smashed by a speeding container van. Or you could get into an accident by paying attention to that text message instead of keeping your eyes on the road.

We all have dreams and aspirations for ourselves and our family. And the reason why we work so hard is not just to provide for our daily needs, but also to be able to save up for that cherished dream— a good education for one's children, a house to call one's own, a healthy and meaningful lifestyle, a comfortable retirement. Or even just the peace of mind that comes from knowing that whatever happens, the basic needs of one's family will be taken care of.

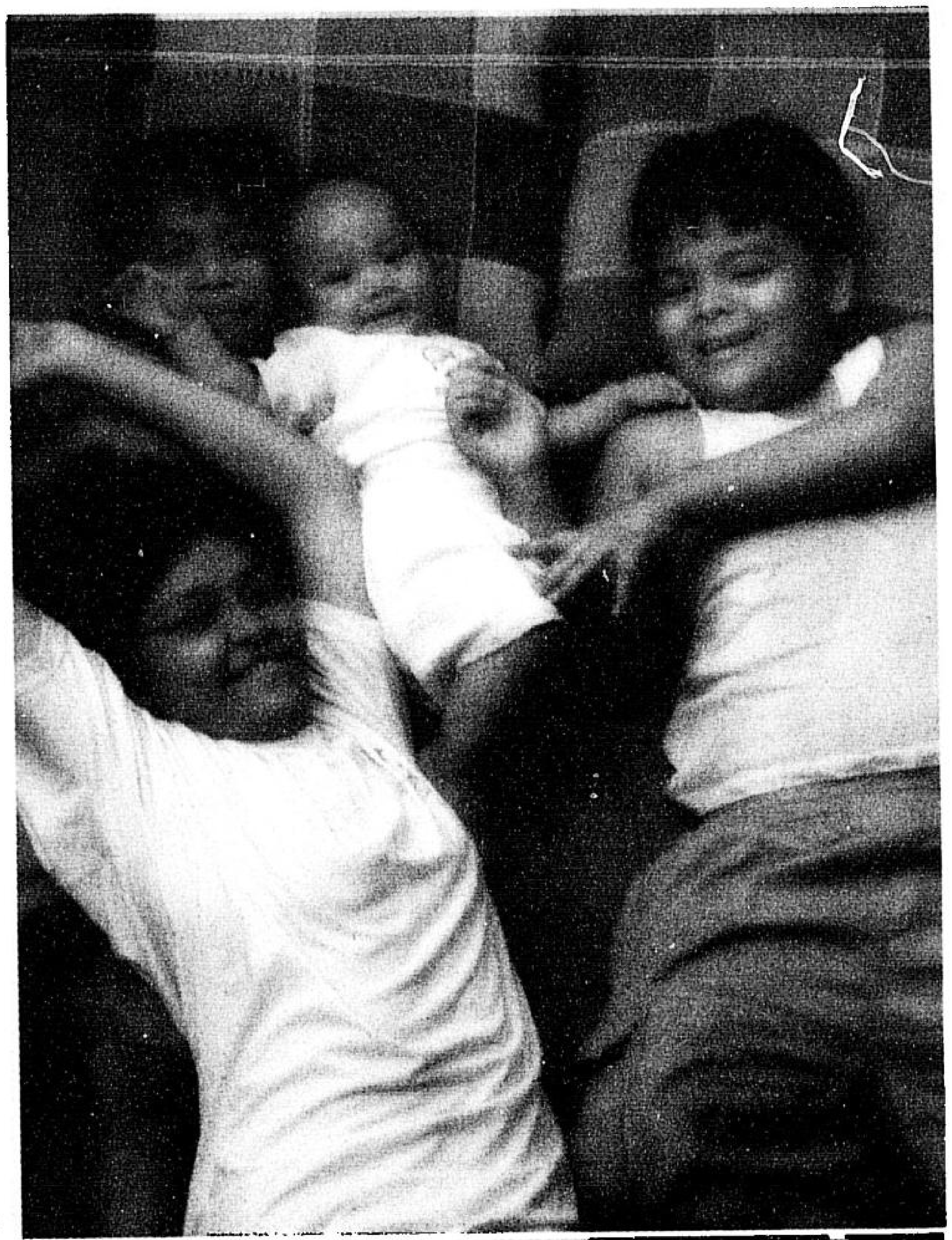
Because of advances in modern medicine, most major illnesses are curable — provided one has the money to spend on medication, hospitalization, doctor's professional fees, surgical procedures, therapies, long-term care, etc. And so getting well basically depends on being ready to cope with the financial burden of medical treatment.

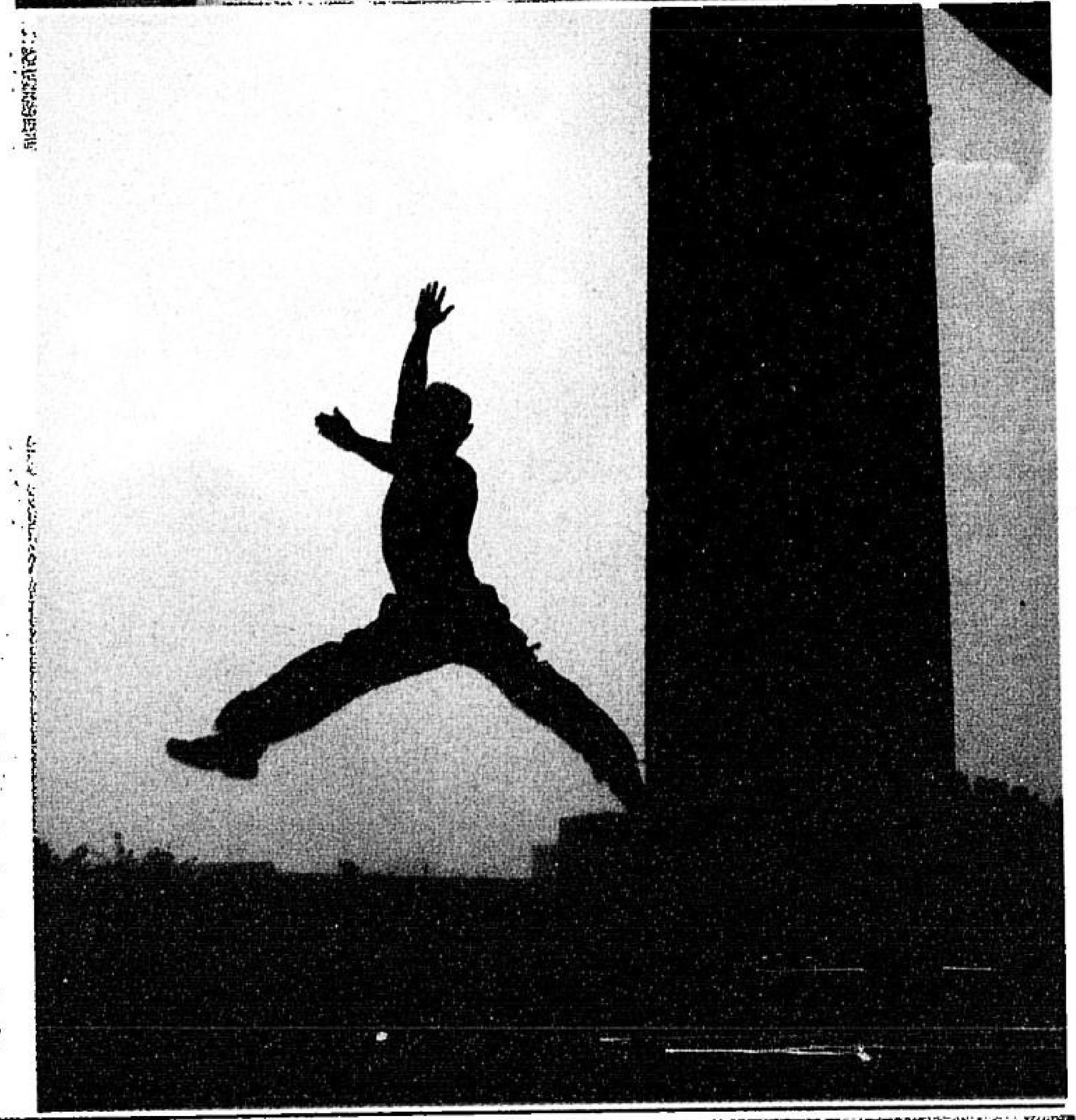
Are you ready for life? Are you prepared in case you suddenly need medical treatment or hospitalization? Do you have the financial means to continue to pursue your dreams for your family in case your savings are drained by medical treatments?

The good news is that you don't have to face life's medical emergencies alone. Philamlife will be there to help ensure that you are ready to face whatever life brings with confidence and peace-of-mind. With its wide and comprehensive range of insurance and related financial products, Philamlife will help guarantee a healthy life for you and a secure financial future for your family.

Life insurance is bought not because someone must die, but because someone must go on living. When a man dies, there are 3 "deaths": the death of a husband, of a father and of an income. When any member of the family gets sick, money set aside to fulfill dreams is spent on present-day contingencies. Whatever happens to you, your family has a right to go on living. Philamlife insurance, particularly health insurance, can help guarantee that right.

Are you ready for life? With Philamlife insurance, you are ready for the rest of your life.





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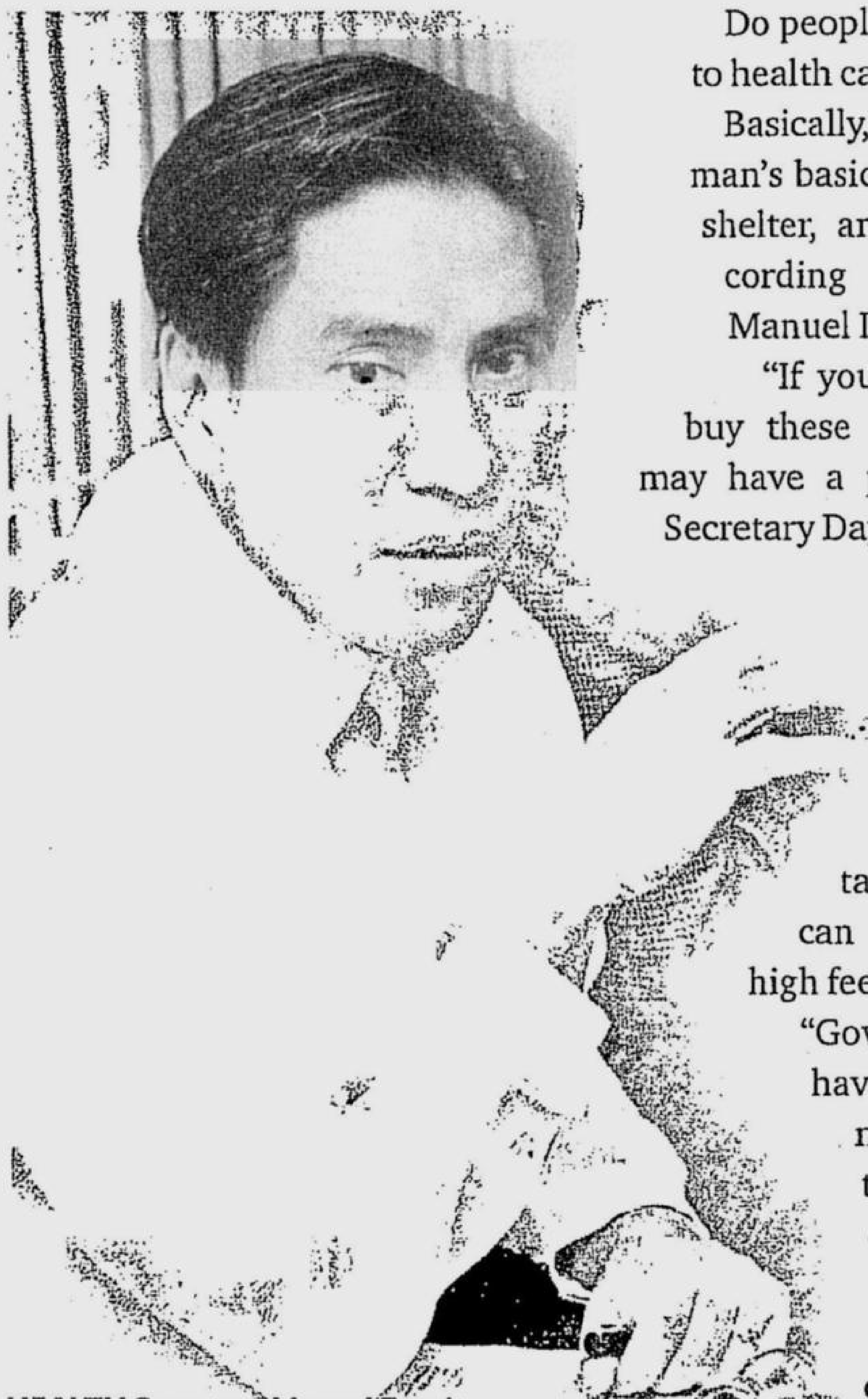
DOH facilitates better health care

ACCESS to health care in a country with more than half of its population living below poverty line could really be difficult. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle and regular consultation with doctors may prove to be expensive for people who have measly income, which is not even enough for food.



HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit

'From the budget that we have, 50 percent is used to provide services like medicines, supplies, food, and educational campaign,' Secretary Dayrit said.

Do people have complete access to health care? Who pays for it?

Basically, health is constituted of man's basic needs: food, clothing, shelter, and education. This according to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

"If you don't have money to buy these basic necessities, you may have a problem with health," Secretary Dayrit said.

The cost of health care has skyrocketed over the years.

Middle-income patients are now going to government hospitals instead because they can no longer afford the high fees of private hospitals.

"Government hospitals now have private wards to augment their income so the poor can be provided with good health care," Dayrit said.

Health has a budget of P10 billion, while local government units that are also in charge of health care have about P18 billion.

"The issue we are talking about here is, do people have complete access to healthcare? That is what's important to us. If they do have good health care, how do they get it? And who is paying for it? Do they have access to that care, the quality of that care, and the affordable cost of that care?" Secretary Dayrit asked.

"What the data show is that 56 percent of our population don't have access to quality services," he added.

The government provides in some measures preventive services like immunization, anti-tetanus, anti-polio, anti-measles, nutrition program, promotes the use of iodized salt for better brain development, and breast-feeding. The family planning education works with the local government. These services are already in place but are provided in the local government level.

"From the budget that we have, 50 percent is used to provide services like medicines, supplies, food, and educational campaign," Secretary Dayrit said.

Starting from the level of middle-income families access to quality health care may not really be that hard. Insurance, HMOs and Medicare (or Philhealth), although they have limited ceilings, are able to assist subscribers to better quality service.

The economically challenged are not lucky enough to have all these.

This is where the private sector may come in.

"Private companies can fill the need. Private sector can cure 67 percent of our people," Secretary Dayrit added.

"The mechanism of the government is getting local government to identify very poor people, fork out a portion of their money to buy premium for an insurance policy," he said.

The value of buying insurance is also the value people place in that security they are covered. "Normally people who have that value in order to buy the insurance should also have the means to buy it," Secretary Dayrit said.

Middle income people who opt to go to public hospitals, in a way, contribute to its income. When they come in with their insurance cards, the public hospital can then claim from the insurance company and that is additional money to fund its purpose, which is serving the very poor.

The government has addressed the issue of access to quality health when it lowered the cost of medicines, Secretary Dayrit said.

Still, it all boils down to economics. And people must fully understand that health is not limited to hospitals or doctors alone. Ultimately, access to health care is access to the very basic needs of people.

Philamlife joins DOH in celebrating Nutrition Month

Go after a healthy lifestyle

LIVING a healthy lifestyle can sometimes be a challenge for many working people. Time is of essence for those who have a demanding job. Because of the kind of lifestyle the society dictates nowadays, taking care of oneself sometimes takes a back seat.

Looking closely at most fitness buffs, they not only have the body to die for but many of them also have a jolly disposition in life. And what's more, they are the envy of many who simply cannot squeeze in a fitness regimen in their day-to-day life.

Being healthy does not only mean they have the best abs, or the finest muscles on earth. It is how healthy you feel inside; or how can you last a 10-km run without losing your breath.

A healthy living can lead to many great things in the family. For one, instead of spending that hard-earned money in medical bills, it can be used instead for a little luxury for the family.

Health problems arise through the years. Several "new" diseases have popped up simultaneous with the fast-changing lifestyle. A number of factors brought about by progress undoubtedly contributes to a stressful living. The cause of stress is not only physiological but mental and emotional as well.

One of the arising problems is obesity. Especially evident among children, it can be attributed to the lack of physical activities that may be caused by certain distractions like computers and television. Although some studies show that these activities can enhance people's analytical skills, the physiological needs are not completely met.

According to the 1998 data of Food and Nutrition Research Institute, 4 percent of Filipinos are obese. The risk of suffering from obesity increases at the age of 40 to 59. An alarming 20 percent of the total population may be obese in five years.

Certain diseases are also attributed to weight gain. It is also believed that lack of physical activity can be the root of rapid aging. The chance of suffering from deadly diseases like cancer, heart ailment, and diabetes doubles for those who don't exercise.

Fitness regimen

Lack of time should never be an excuse for not having a fitness regimen. Experts noted that a 30-minute exercise for four days a week helps a lot. If you get bored going to a gym or simply don't have the means, daily activities like biking, dancing, brisk walking and climbing the stairs is a good cardiovascular exercise.

These activities are best prescribed for office workers because they spend seven to eight hours sitting in front of the computer.

Creating your own fitness regimen include watching the kinds of food to eat. There is a contention, however, of how effective the food pyramid is, but the essential thing is: Take your hands off fatty food!

But don't deprive yourself of food, of course. Dinner with your loved one is not the most important meal of the day, mind you. Breakfast is. Because you'll be needing all the energy to face the daily rigors of working life. However busy you are take breakfast seriously, it must always be a full meal. Imagine how you can function effectively if your mind is busy answering your grumbling stomach. It might lead to stress. And the chain reaction will preoccupy you for the rest of the day.

You don't have to go to an expert to know which foods are best for staying healthy. Pick the right food in the market: fruits, vegetables, fish, a little of meat — because you need protein.

Consumption of the so-called sin foods like chocolates, candy, french fries, or anything sweet must be strictly monitored.

Read labels

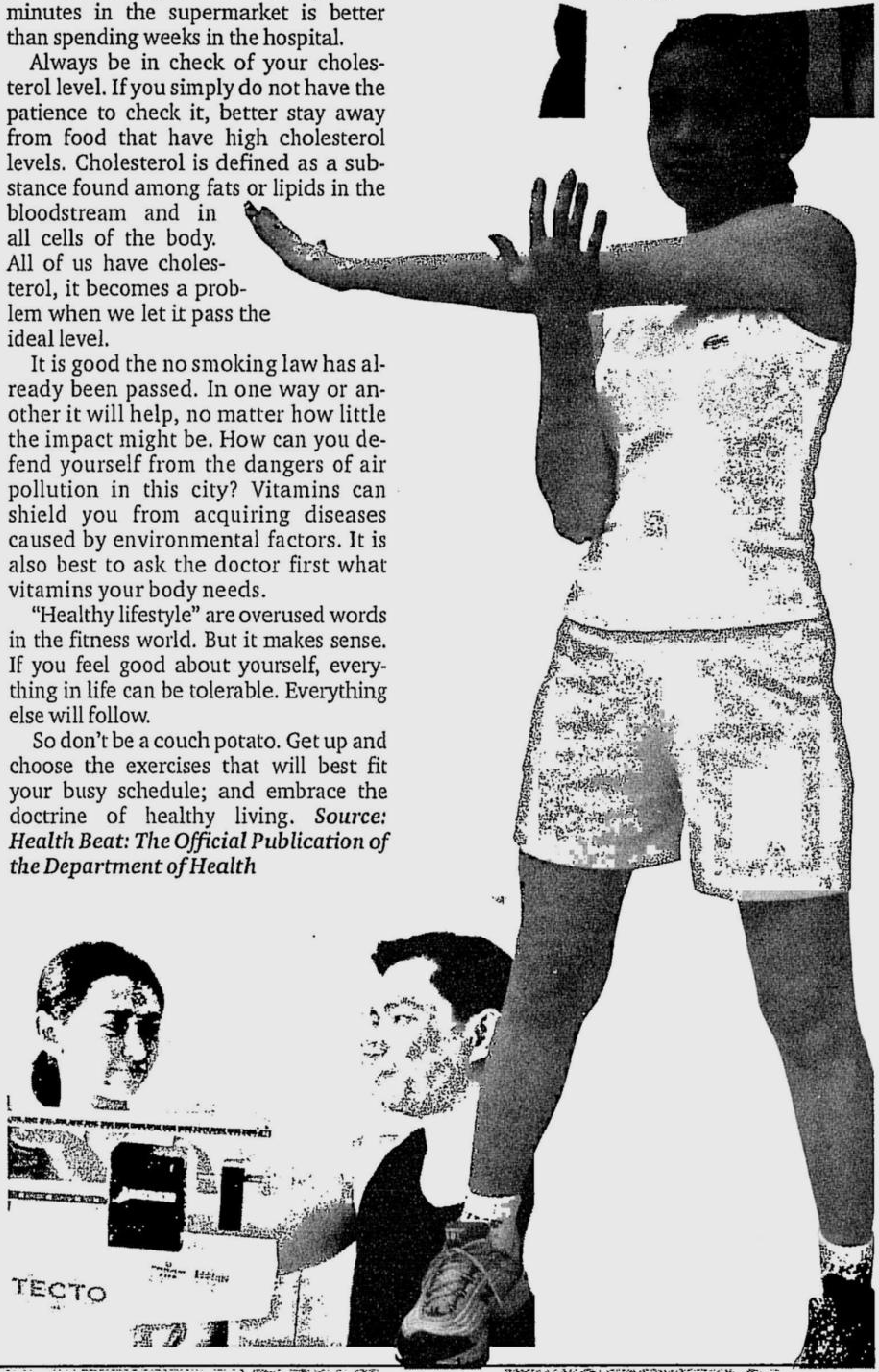
It won't hurt a bit if you spend a little extra time in the grocery reading the labels of the food you intend to buy. A few minutes in the supermarket is better than spending weeks in the hospital.

Always be in check of your cholesterol level. If you simply do not have the patience to check it, better stay away from food that have high cholesterol levels. Cholesterol is defined as a substance found among fats or lipids in the bloodstream and in all cells of the body. All of us have cholesterol, it becomes a problem when we let it pass the ideal level.

It is good the no smoking law has already been passed. In one way or another it will help, no matter how little the impact might be. How can you defend yourself from the dangers of air pollution in this city? Vitamins can shield you from acquiring diseases caused by environmental factors. It is also best to ask the doctor first what vitamins your body needs.

"Healthy lifestyle" are overused words in the fitness world. But it makes sense. If you feel good about yourself, everything in life can be tolerable. Everything else will follow.

So don't be a couch potato. Get up and choose the exercises that will best fit your busy schedule; and embrace the doctrine of healthy living. *Source: Health Beat: The Official Publication of the Department of Health*



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Good health needs planning, too

By Verne-D.Quiazon

> The human body is the most wonderful machine known to man. It is the only machine that can repair itself. The body has everything it needs to keep itself whole and functioning

THE PRICE of just about everything has been going up lately: gasoline, vegetables, school tuition and even cell phone and text messaging rates. But have you also noticed that the cost of healthcare has likewise been going up? A short stay in the hospital for an ordinary illness will cost upward of P15,000 these days; while an outpatient consultation, with basic laboratory, can cost P750 at least. Conventionally, medical costs go up two to three times faster than the general inflation. No wonder that many people stay away from doctors and hospitals for as long as they can, seeking medical help only when their symptoms become severe and unbearable. And usually, by then, it would cost so much more to obtain cure and restore health. Treatment for serious illnesses and dreaded diseases has often caused severe financial dislocations in families.

The best way to avoid these medical expenses is, of course, by staying healthy. There is so much wisdom in the saying that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Staying healthy is as much a physical activity as it is an activity of the mind and of the will. For staying healthy requires a firm decision and a strong determination.

Keeping Healthy

The human body is the most wonderful machine known to man. It is the only machine that can repair itself. The body has everything it needs to keep itself whole and functioning. In fact, disease or illness ensues when this capacity of the body to repair itself is impaired. There are three important elements in maintaining the body's capacity to repair itself: nutrition, exercise and stress management.

· Proper diet and nutrition

Nutrition is the process of consuming, absorbing and using nutrients needed by the body for growth and development, that is, the maintenance of life. Many of the nutrients can be synthesized by the body for its own nourishment. The food we eat (diet) supplements our body with the needed nutrients which cannot be formed by the body.

An awareness of the proper diet helps us achieve and maintain the desired energy for the work appropriate to our lifestyle. Proper nutrition is vital in keeping ourselves healthy, making us more resistant against contracting illnesses. Moderation is the key in eating a balanced diet. It should be emphasized that excess in food intake, just like the lack of it, is not at all healthy. In the end, it is good to keep in mind that you are what you eat.

· Regular Exercise

Fitness, not fatness. Fitness is often mistaken for having a "sexy" body. It is actually the capacity to perform physical activities. This can be achieved by exercising regularly, coupled with a good, well-balanced diet.

One of the benefits of regular exercise is that it makes the heart stronger, enabling it to pump more blood and deliver more oxygen and nutrients to the different parts of the body. It increases the strength and flexibility of the bones, joints and muscles. It has also been found to prevent a number of major illnesses, such as heart disease, osteoporosis and diabetes, by controlling/lowering blood pressure, cholesterol levels, body fat and stress.

Exercise benefits people of all ages, even older people. Studies have shown that inactivity, rather than aging itself, is the main cause of the decline in older people's physical capabilities. The type and intensity of exercise should depend on the individual. The key is the regularity with which we do our exercises.

· Stress Management

A stressor is a condition or an event that disrupts an individual's routine. Repeated and frequent disruptions may overwhelm the adaptive capacity of an individual. This may be insignificant and even favorable (such as promotion) as long as it requires adaptive behavior. For each individual, this is subjectively defined and the response to stress is a function of each person's personality. What may be stressful for one may not be for another.

The causes of stress vary at different stages of life, e.g. puberty, marriage, divorce, adolescence, childbearing, sibling rivalry, new employment, and death. The reactions to stress may also vary, e.g. anxiety, depression, alcoholism, fear and sleep disturbances. Stress Management deals with handling such disruptive events without destroying a person's wholeness. Stress reduction techniques may include immediate symptom relief, early recognition and removal of the sources of stress.

Proper diet, nutrition, regular exercises and stress management do not assure that an individual will be totally free from any disease. Even Superman had his bouts of coughs and colds. Fighting it off effectively and having a good sense of over-all well being, of wholeness, of haleness are better indicators of being in tip-top shape, of being healthy.

Dealing with Illness

For all its wonder, our body is not perfect. Sooner or later, it succumbs to illness and we fall sick. We suffer from essentially two types of illnesses: the acute conditions and the chronic. What to do?

· Acute Conditions

These are diseases that often have a quick onset and a short duration. Awareness on the signs and symptoms of common illnesses is our best weapon against such acute illnesses. Since the disease may already have set in, the best form of secondary prevention is to recognize the initial symptoms and deal with them accordingly.

Knowing when to seek a doctor's advice is likewise very important. Oftentimes, when we try to self-medicate, especially with common over-the-counter antibiotics, we end up getting worse and spending more.

· Chronic Conditions

Most chronic conditions require lifetime treatment. Since these illnesses rarely resolve completely, maintenance treatment and prevention of complications form the core of the medical management for patients afflicted with chronic illnesses. Regular follow-ups and monitoring of clinical parameters, as well as a reliable and efficient care-provider, are also vital in the therapeutic process.

Getting Confined

Most diseases can be treated on an outpatient basis. But sometimes we succumb to a disease so severe or requiring special care, we need to be hospitalized. For many, a hospital confinement can be a dreadful experience. Here may be some helpful tips.

· Choosing your doctor

The doctor serves as your best ally in times of poor health. This fact should not be underrated since it is a critical decision in the course of treatment. In one's choice of a doctor, one is looking for trust and competence. Just like in any relationship, trust is an important value between doctors and patients. Initial encounter with the doctor puts this to the test. As long as this holds on, then we can be confident of a faster recovery. Competence refers not only to the expertise of a doctor but to the depth of that expertise. It is obvious that one would go to a cardiologist for diseases of the heart or to a pediatrician for the medical care of children. Also, one does not go immediately to a highly trained specialist for ordinary illnesses. It should be worth mentioning here that a more "expensive" doctor does not always guarantee the best quality medical care. The operative word here is appropriate care, not most expensive care.

· Choosing your hospital

This usually goes with the doctor of choice. It is important that we realize that the most high-tech and well-equipped institution does not always guarantee the best service. Of course, the type of illness would also dictate the kind of medical facilities needed. What is more important is the comfort that it provides, not only physically, but the warmth extended by the staff to its patients as well. It is important to remember that the hospital need not be too homey. The faster we get out of the hospital, the better. As the old saying goes, "there's no place like home".

Is there anyone who can help me?

So, how do I plan for my health? First, plan on keeping healthy through the proper diet and nutrition, regular exercise and stress management. Prepare for the eventuality of getting sick. One can do this either through managed care or, to be flippant about it, unmanaged care.

· Unmanaged Care

You can do nothing and just "cross your bridge when you get there." Then, pay for your medical bills when they arrive. This is like going to a battle without any weapon… only worse. What's worse about getting sick is that it can strike anywhere, anytime, at any place. Without the much needed preparation, we are caught off-guard, left empty-handed and at rare times, ready to be devoured by the self-created monsters who got off-track from the golden road that Hippocrates has cleared for their kind.

Of course, there are people who will still help us, but for a price. And in times of crises, we do not have much negotiating or bargaining power just like we do during the Christmas season at the *tiangge* in Greenhills. This is definitely a stressor, which we cannot do anything about, but can be avoided.

· Managed Care

One can be proactive about taking responsibility for one's health and take out a managed care health plan. This is like having a separate bank account just for your health needs. The only difference is that after an initial deposit, you can withdraw so much more than what you have in your passbook. What can be better than getting your money's worth and more! Your health needs are covered and you become virtually worry-free as far as your health needs are concerned.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

All sides of the 'triangle' covered

PHILAM LIFE

Excelife Secure

All You Need. All In One.

AN INSURANCE also spells security for the insured as well as its beneficiaries and families. Its benefits have not yet been discovered by many Filipinos.

It is important that an individual knows what he needs to ensure his bright future.

The Total Needs Triangle shows the three basic needs a person must be aware of in availing himself of an insurance product. The financial, health and savings.

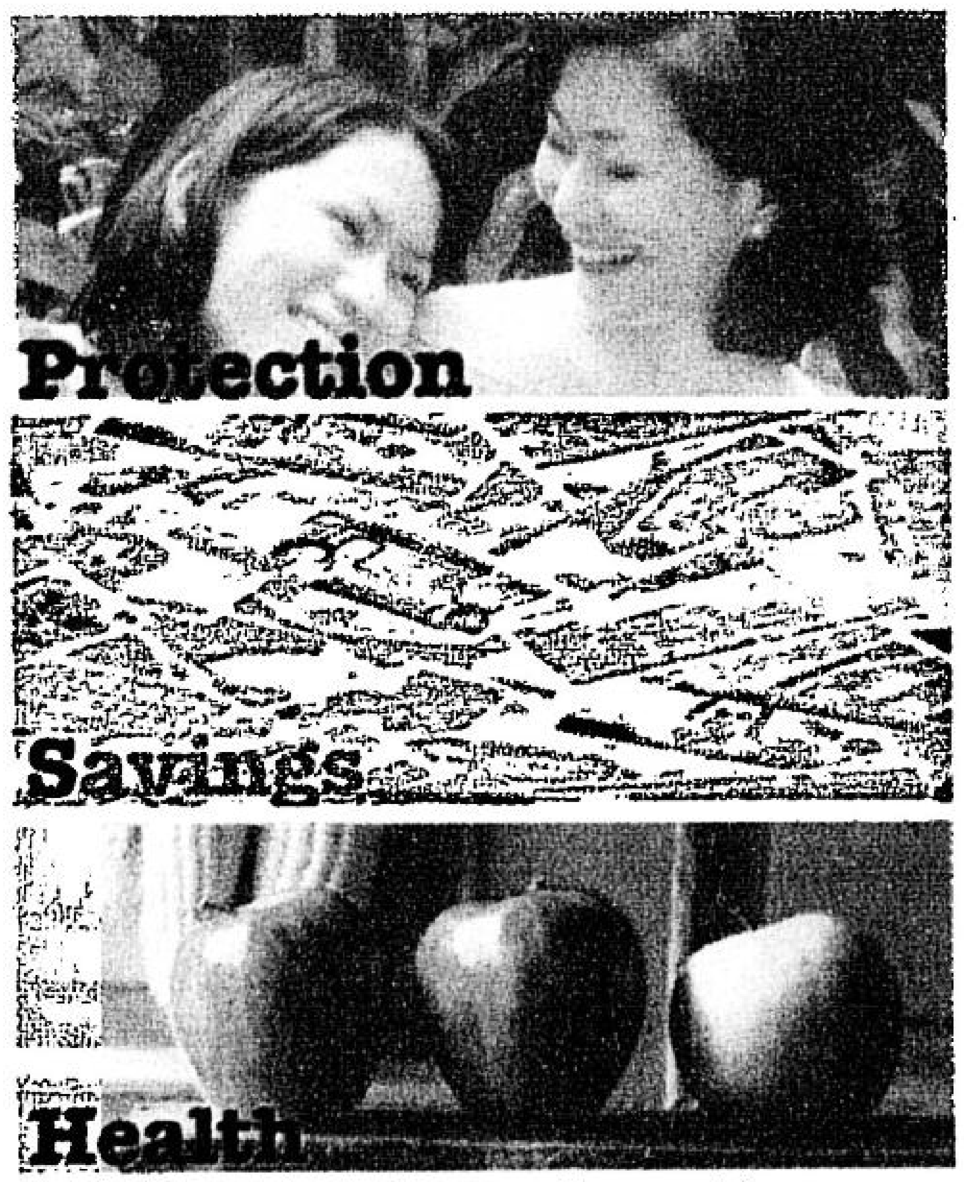
Insurance plans are also known as "forced savings" because it requires the owner to regularly pay the premiums for a future benefit. There are several insurance products that offer future cash benefits. The owner pays the premiums during the early years of the policy in order to be entitled to staggered or lump sum cash benefits at specified years in the future.

Premiums to be paid for any of these plans are derived from the salary that one receives from work. If the capacity to work is disrupted, then the savings program may break up since no salary is forthcoming to pay the premium.

A health problem like a prolonged or critical illness can cause work disruption. It is important for any life insurance program to provide health benefits to take care of medical expenses or loss of income due to illness.

Accidents can also prevent a person from working, depriving him of his income. If this happens, whatever savings or protection the person has may be lost. It is equally important that a life insurance program also provides accident coverage.

Many insurance programs unfortunately emphasize just one side of the triangle. A comprehensive life insurance program must cover all sides of the triangle. No matter what happens, the policyowner is fully protected.



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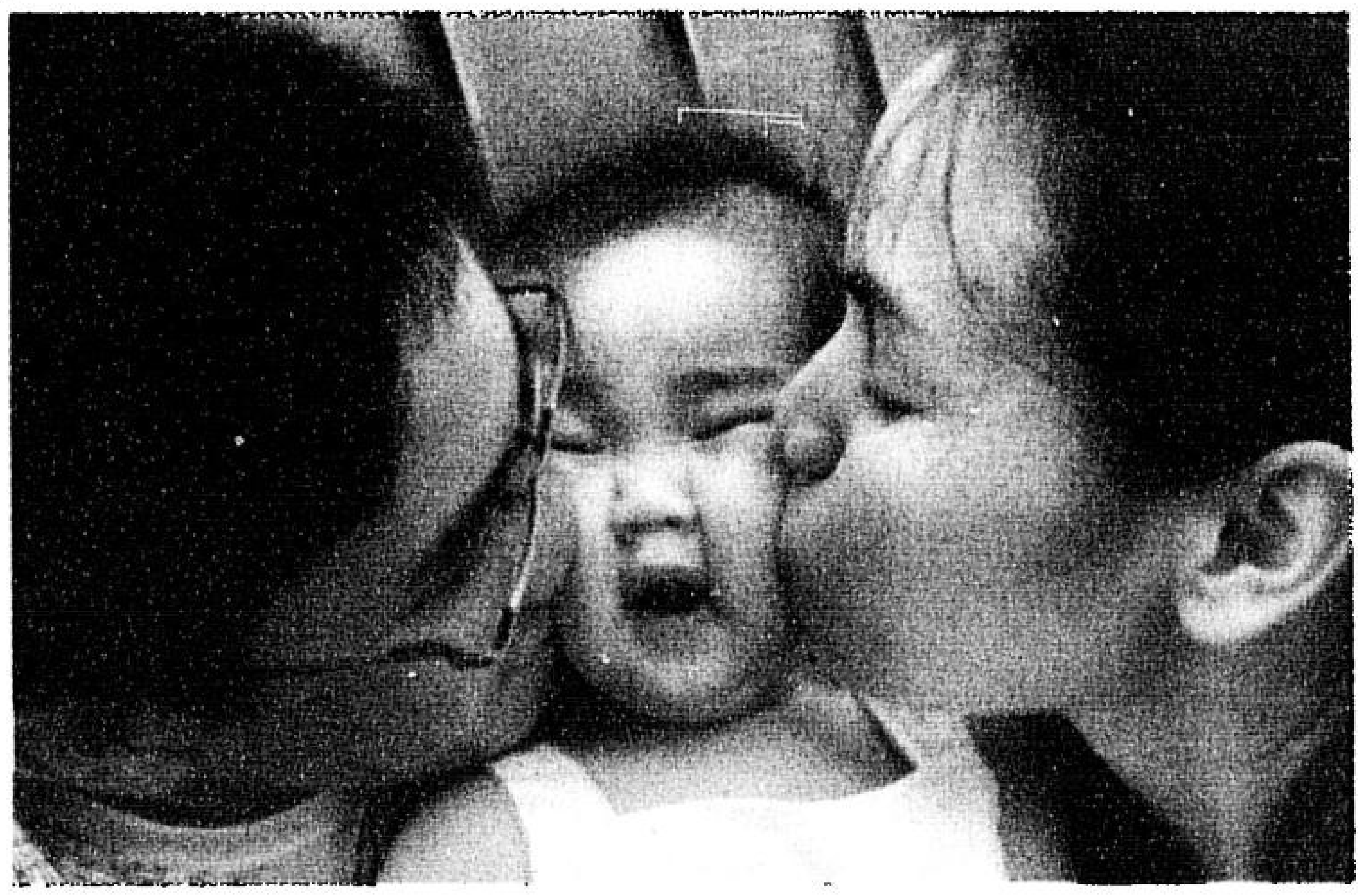

PHILAMLIFE'S NEWEST PRODUCT

Excelife Secure gets you covered

MOST working people have set their sights on living a comfortable life in the future. All they are working for now is in preparation for a better and contented living. And wouldn't it be wonderful to retire without worries? That all you have to think about is how you will spend the day communing with life? Ah, the comforts life brings.

Before reaching that goal, there are many things you have to consider. One of them is planning and working for it. There are ways to help you achieve that dream lifestyle. You have to age in style, you know.

Philamlife recently introduced a complete insurance package ideal for

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Excelife Secure gets you covered

the life everyone is fancying aptly called Excelife Secure.

There are three important things every individual needs that Excelife Secure has covered: protection, health, and savings.

Because life has its uncertainties, it is best to anticipate what life would bring. Excelife Secure's Protection program has a lifetime insurance protection and comprehensive accident coverage that will be of great assistance when an unfortunate accident occurs.

Your health is well-covered as well. In the event that you fall ill and need to stay in the hospital for a while, a fixed income replacement benefit will be given to you. You can also opt to receive a cash benefit if diagnosed with a specific critical illness.

The cash benefit will be doubled if a dread disease strikes. If you are diagnosed as having a total or permanent disability due to an accident, the insured may receive a cash amount every month. During the disability period, the individual can receive an amount given annually, which will help during those times when he or she is unable to work.

What is even better is the guaranteed return of annual premiums paid at the end of 20 years, regardless of any claims made; a choice of getting the amount at once or converting it as a lifetime monthly pension when the insured reaches the retirement age of 65.

And because you simply don't want to burden the family who may be the beneficiary of the insurance you availed yourself of, cash to cover the expenses when death knocks is needed.

If you are diagnosed with a critical illness such as heart attack, certain forms of cancers, coronary artery bypass surgery, liver cirrhosis, kidney failure, or organ transplant you will receive a lump cash benefit equal to 20 percent of the face amount.

Act now. Choose the Excelife Secure plan that best suits you, and fill up the Express Application form for that important first step to total coverage

There's an Excelife Secure Plan that best suits you

TABLE OF BENEFITS AND ANNUAL PREMIUMS

Lifetime Protection	200,000	300,000	500,000	750,000	1,000,000	1,500,000
Accident Coverage	400,000	600,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	3,000,000
Medical Reimbursement	20,000	20,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Lifeline	40,000	60,000	100,000	150,000	200,000	300,000
Daily Hospital Income	800	1,000	1,400	2,000	2,500	3,000
Dread Disease Benefit	1,600	2,000	2,800	4,000	5,000	6,000
Age	Annual Premiums in Pesos					
18	7,927 14	10,594 65	14,523 37	20,511 87	25,161 75	34,567 63
19	8,014.29	10,725.19	14,739 69	20,841 09	25,518.24	35,101 64
20	8,105 30	10,861.33	14,969 09	21,184 81	25,887.21	35,654 16
21	8,164 34	10,949 69	15,112 49	21,399 73	26,248.45	36,195 56
22	8,228 63	11,043 80	15,265 23	21,623 45	26,641.77	36,774 61
23	8,293 44	11,138 77	15,423 06	21,860 00	27,038 74	37,359 35
24	8,357 99	11,235 41	15,576 83	22,090 48	27,441.28	37,972 94
25	8,422.70	11,332.10	15,737 05	22,330 43	27,869.86	38,614 88
26	8,514 34	11,469 36	15,965 37	22,672 72	28,332.79	39,298 55
27	8,609 74	11,610 32	16,193 24	23,014 43	28,795.10	40,002 04
28	8,712 63	11,764.46	16,446 26	23,393 77	29,314 26	40,770 07
29	8,816 56	11,919.97	16,704 52	23,775 67	29,836 58	41,552 60
30	9,429 49	12,713 88	17,859 47	25,451 40	31,974 73	44,297.15
31	9,592 10	12,957 05	18,252 80	26,035 59	32,725 30	45,421 12
32	9,762 81	13,211 66	18,667 71	26,661 91	33,531 27	46,616 60
33	9,953 16	13,491 91	19,124 44	27,340.58	34,406 86	47,926 49
34	10,150 71	13,786 87	19,602 56	28,056 49	35,325 19	49,290 19
35	10,838 18	14,695 87	20,959.17	30,025 50	37,815.12	52,576.36
36	11,074 22	15,048 00	21,527 94	30,876 90	38,940 71	54,259 60
37	11,332 28	15,428 79	22,154 25	31,814 40	40,166 98	56,093 28
38	11,634 90	15,871 82	22,866 00	32,874 50	41,569 79	58,159 52
39	11,947 05	16,333 17	23,614 86	33,995 30	43,039 54	60,346 48
40	12,806.33	17,480 34	25,347.38	36,518.87	46,273.92	64,675.17
41	13,131 43	17,963 87	26,154 63	37,720 96	47,870 95	67,059 41
42	13,574 84	18,612.48	27,209 53	39,294 61	49,942 70	70,114.38
43	14,034 94	19,283 33	28,310 51	40,931 58	52,083 96	73,271 69
44	14,488 69	19,950.12	29,427 48	42,597 06	54,282 94	76,534 21
45	15,558.59	21,394.11	31,633 25	45,827.39	58,438.67	82,180 89
46	16,104.47	22,197 28	32,953 41	47,796 34	61,032 95	86,020 32
47	16,683 02	23,048 70	34,356 08	49,883 13	63,783 21	90,102 13
48	17,369 58	24,046 72	35,984 49	52,302 76	66,955 23	94,761 98
49	18,044 51	25,038 65	37,624 94	54,749 95	70,176 10	99,533 63
50	19,441 78	26,946 38	40,584 10	59,087 79	75,780 90	107,269 34

Premium-paying period is 20 years. Illustrated above are the annual premiums for the first 17 years.
Premium rates drop slightly after the 17th year.
Application does not signify automatic acceptance. All applications are subject to the usual screening guidelines

Choose from among the EXCELIFE SECURE coverages across the table (horizontal) and locate your age (vertical) nearest your birthday. At the intersection of these two, you will find your annual premium: Life Protection 500,000 at age 30 = P17,859.47 annually)

Protection that's easy to apply for!

No long form! No medical exam! Easy processing!
Quick 3-Step application:

1. Fill up the Express Application Form completely.
2. Talk to your agent of handcarry this application to the Philamlife office nearest you or mail it to the Market Research and Product Marketing Department, 3rd Flr. Philamlife Building, United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila, 0900 or send it thru fax no.: 528-2001.
3. Pay your premiums upon the delivery of the contractby our Philamlife representative.

Express Application Form

PROPOSED INSURED

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female	Age	Height
Civil Status ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widow ☐ Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No
Business Address		Business Telephone No
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income
Relationship of Proposed Insured to Owner Payor (if applicable)		
PRODUCT NAME	☐ Excelife Secure without Lifeline	☐ Excelife Secure with Lifeline
AMOUNT OF COVERAGE		
Beneficiary's Name		Age

OWNER / PAYOR

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female	Age	Height
Civil Status ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widow ☐ Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No
Business Address		Business Telephone No
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income

MODE OF PAYMENT ☐ Annual ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Quarterly ☐ SMPDC ☐ Auto-Credit ☐ Auto-Debit
IN CASE OF PREMIUM DEFAULT ☐ Premium Loan ☐ Paid-up Insurance ☐ Extended Term Insurance
Relationship to P I | Name of Trustee (if beneficiary is below 18)

QUESTIONS: (CHECK ANSWER FOR BOTH PROPOSED INSURED & OWNER/PAYOR)

	PROPOSED INSURED	OWNER/PAYOR
A. Has the Proposed Insured (PI) or Owner/Payor (O/P) ever been told that he has cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous disorder? (If "YES", underline which ailment or ailments).	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
B. Does the PI or O/P have any abnormality or impairment in his health or physical condition?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
C. During the past 5 years, has the PI or O/P consulted any physician for medical treatment or been confined in a hospital, clinic or similar institutions?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
D. Does the PI or O/P engage in motorcycle / motorboat / auto racing, sky diving, scuba diving or other hazardous avocations?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No

For each "YES" answer to any of the questions above, please give full details in the space below. For questions A, B, & C, include physician's name and address, hospital, date and nature of consultation, sickness or impairment. Use an addendum form (Form GF7C) for additional answers and/or beneficiaries. Please don't forget to sign these additional forms.

PROPOSED INSURED ______ OWNER/PAYOR ______

ENDORSEMENTS AND CHANGES (For Home Office Use Only).

I understand that all statements and answers contained herein and in any addendum annexed to this application as well as those made to the Medical Examiner in Part II (if applicable) hereof are full complete and true to the best of my knowledge and that any policy issued under this application will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment during my lifetime and good health. I also understand that Article 1250 of the Civil Code of the Philippines (R.A. 386) shall not apply to any payments made or to be made by either party to any policy issued under this application

By purchasing this policy and signing below, I represent that I am not a U.S. person for purposes of U.S. federal income tax and that I am not acting for, or on behalf of, a U.S. person. If my tax status changes and I become a U.S. citizen or resident, I will notify Philamlife within 30 days. (U.S. citizens or residents must strike out this clause and initial the changes at the left side.)

Proposed Insured's Signature ______
Owner's Signature ______
Signed at ______
Date Signed ______
Agent's Name & Signature ______
Agent's Code ______ To be filled up by agent or home office
Agent's Contact Number ______

APPLICATION NO ______
DEPOSIT PAID ______ CR No ______

Form No. GF-150-A

AUTHORIZATION TO FURNISH MEDICAL INFORMATION
(This from should be completed for each case)

We hereby authorize any person, organization or entity that has any record or knowledge of my health and/or that of ______ to give to the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company any and all information relative to any hospitalization, consultation, treatment or any medical advice or examination. This authorization is in connection with the application for insurance and all claims arising therefrom. A photographic copy of this authorization shall be valid as the original

Signature of Proposed Insured | Signature of Owner | Signature of Legal Guardian | Signature of Witness

For more information, please call 528-2000

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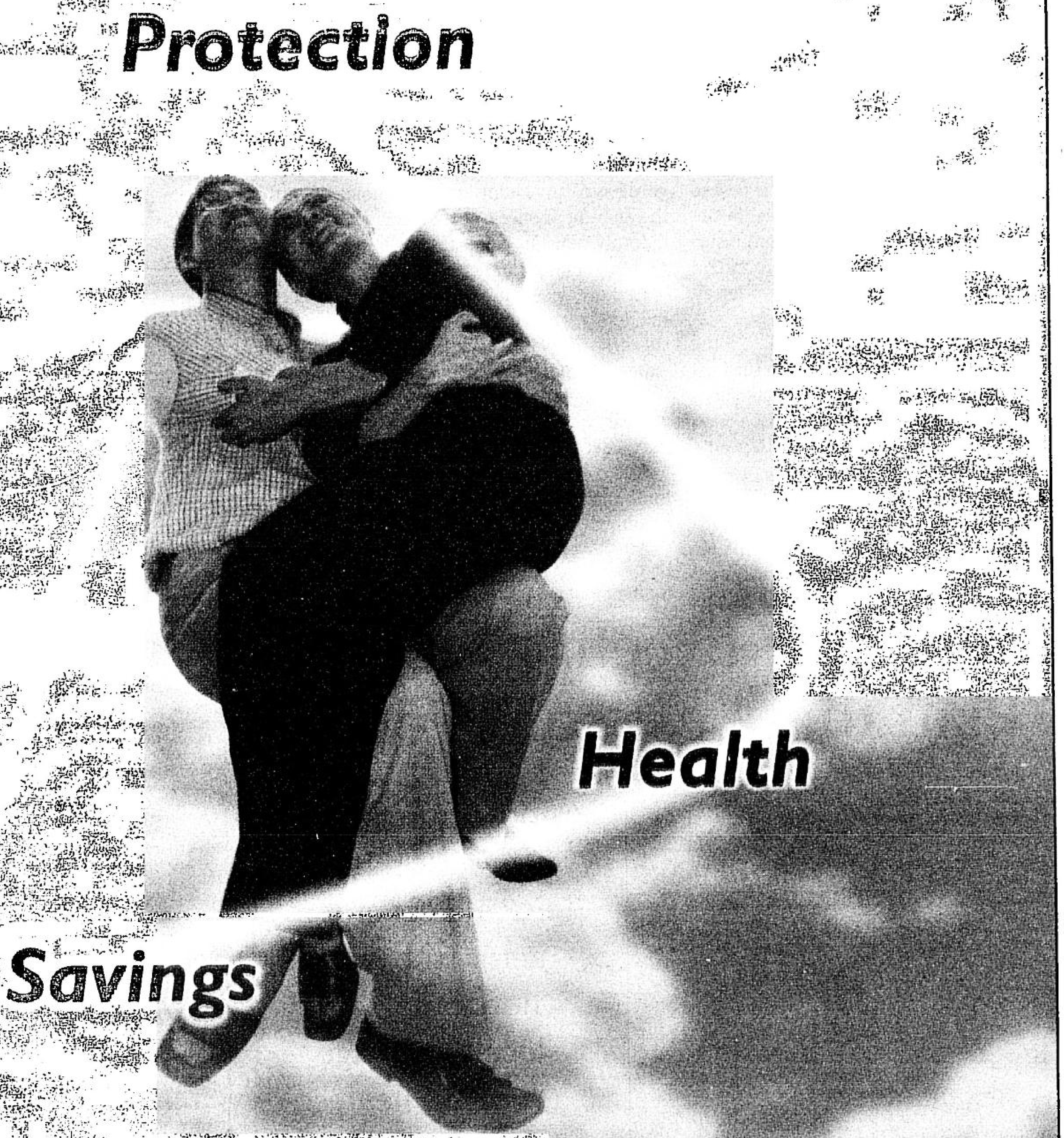
Excelife Secure
All You Need. All In One.



Why avail of an insurance plan that answers only some of your needs, when you can get a complete plan that provides utmost security for you and your family?

Introducing **Excelife Secure**, the health insurance plan that covers life's most important facets - Protection, Health, and Savings - in one comprehensive package.
Excelife Secure guarantees you: *Protection* through a lifetime insurance package and comprehensive accident coverage;
Health with replacement income in case of hospitalization and diagnosis of a critical illness; and *Savings* in the form of cash funds for your retirement.

So avail of **Excelife Secure**, the most comprehensive health insurance package in the market today.
All you need. All in one.

Talk to your Philamlife agent now, or call **(02) 528-2000** for inquiries.

PHILAM LIFE
Are you ready for life?
www.ephilam.com

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Philam Life, Philam Plans, Philam Care, Philam Savings Bank, AIG Credit Card, Philam Asset Management, Philam Insurance, Philam Properties, AIG Business Processing Services.

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Philamlife dominates the country's insurance industry

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. (Philamlife) remains the premier insurance company with the continued innovations and introduction of new products that will best serve its valued customers

THE WORD in the Philippine context is almost synonymous with the company that has built its name for more than half a century. It has grown to be one of the most preferred insurance companies in the country today. The niche it has created in the industry has become the model of most other companies.

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. (Philamlife) remains the premier insurance company, what with the continued innovations and introduction of new products that will best serve its most revered customers. Philamlife is a member company of American International Group Inc. (AIG), the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization. With a global outlook, it is no surprise that Philamlife is a fixture in the elite top corporations of the Philippines.

Life is a constant change and constant fine tuning of its services is one of the most important things Philamlife achieved over the years. With an impressive 26-percent market share in terms of total premiums as of 2001, Philamlife leads the life insurance industry in the country today. Its domination of the industry doesn't stop there as it also ranks first in terms of total assets and total investments. In 2001, the company held a commanding 34-percent market share in terms of total assets and a 35-percent market share in terms of total investments.

As if these were not enough, Philamlife recorded a whopping P9 billion in total premium income last year, an increase of 14.3 percent as compared to 2001. Proof of its topnotch service, the company paid P3.4 billion in benefits to its policyholders in 2002.

It is not only from these figures that Philamlife draws its strength but mostly from its core values of integrity, quality service, responsive leadership and financial strength.

And what is a strong company without a strong management and sales team? To serve more than a million individual and corporate policyholders, the company maintains the most extensive network of over 200 offices and sales agencies nationwide, over 8,000 sales agents and 1,000 employees. In its pursuit to serve its policyholders even better, the company's sales and management team regularly holds meetings and assessments to further improve its services.

To illustrate the company's extensive program, its life and general insurance products provide protection, savings and investments, education and personal accident coverage. Through its affiliate companies, Philamlife also offers pre-need plans and health care, banking, credit cards, asset management, property development, property and casualty insurance, and business process outsourcing.

Corporate citizenship also keeps Philamlife one of the most esteemed companies of Filipinos. In recent years, it has invested in major infrastructure projects, which include the Metro Manila Skyway Project and the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road. Philamlife has also invested in the telecommunications and power industries. The company is also proud of its long-term fixed-rate mortgage housing loan programs, which has helped many Filipino families.

AIG operates in approximately 130 countries and jurisdictions. AIG member companies serve commercial, institutional and individual customers through the most extensive worldwide property-casualty and life insurance networks of any insurer. In the United States, AIG companies are the largest underwriters of commercial and industrial insurance, and AIG American General is a top-ranked life insurer. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management. AIG has long had the most geographically diverse life insurance business, and following the 2001 acquisition of American General Corp., is now the most profitable life insurer in the world.

With a mother company that has remained on top for so many years, a strong management and sales team, and services that have become a model of other companies, Philamlife has proved to be the most dominant insurance company in the country today.

WHEREVER you may be in the Philippines, there's a Philamlife office nearby to answer your need for complete security—now and in the future.

METRO MANILA

ALABANG REGIONAL OFFICE
G/F Philamlife Building, Acacia Road,
Madrigal Business Park,
1702 Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila
Tel No: (02) 807-4343; 807-4325;
807-4366
Fax No: 807-4323
Sales: 807-4321

CUBAO REGIONAL OFFICE
2/F Philamlife Building,
Aurora Boulevard corner Araneta Avenue,
1111 Cubao, Quezon City
Tel No: (02) 911-9041 up to 48; 912-6091
Fax Nos: 911-2823
(Operations) 912-6092
Sales: 911-9041 local 210

UN REGIONAL OFFICE
G/F Philamlife Bldg.
United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila
Tel No: (02) 521-6300 loc. 253,
228 & 258 (Trunkline)
Direct Line: 524-9957
Fax No.: 526-9573
Sales: 526-9305

LUZON

ANGELES REGIONAL OFFICE -

Jimenez Building, Sto. Rosario corner
Lakandula Streets,
2009 Angeles City, Pampanga
Tel No: (045) 888-3280; 888-6094;
888-1021; 888-1061; 888-1062; 888-1086
Tel/ Fax: 322-2828
Sales: 522-5742

BALIUAG REGIONAL OFFICE

2/F Baliuag Rural Bank
Benigno Aquino Avenue,
3006 Baliuag, Bulacan
Tel No: (044) 766-3190
Fax No.: 766-2165
Sales: 791-5284

BATANGAS REGIONAL OFFICE
P. Burgos corner Evangelista Street
4200 Batangas City, Batangas
Tel No: (043) 723-0411; 722-1639
Tel/ Fax: 723-2266
Sales: 723-0410

LA UNION REGIONAL OFFICE
4/F Adriano G.Zambrano Building
Quezon Avenue
2500 San Fernando City, La Union
Tel No: (072) 888-5057
Tel / Fax: 242-7455
Agency: 888-2423
Sales: (077) 773-2355; (074) 442-3311

SAN PABLO REGIONAL OFFICE
Malvar Mansion, Rizal Avenue,
4000 San Pablo City, Laguna
Tel No: (049) 562-1008
Tel/ Fax: 562-0621
Sales: 562-1971

SANTIAGO REGIONAL OFFICE

G/F FGR Building,
14 Maharlika Road, Centro East,
3311 Santiago City, Isabela
Tel No: (078) 682-8108; 682-4036
Fax No: 682-8025

VISAYAS

CEBU REGIONAL OFFICE

Osmena Boulevard (formerly Jones Avenue),
6000 Cebu City, Cebu
Tel No: (032) 253-0626; 253-0678;
253-9306; 253-4549;
253-5399; 254-5604; 254-5699
254-7292; 254-1272; 255-7371
Fax No.: 253-9399
Sales: 253-0629

ILOILO REGIONAL OFFICE
I. Dela Rama Street,
5000 Iloilo City, Iloilo
Tel No: (033) 335-0524; 338-1826;
336-2541; 338-1827; 338-1824;
Fax No.: 338-1825
Sales: 337-3243

MINDANAO

CAGAYAN DE ORO REGIONAL OFFICE -

Apolinar Velez corner Lt. Echem Streets,
9000 Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental
Tel. No.: (088) 856-4588;
856-4592; 856-4595; 856-4593;
Sales: 856-4594
Servicing: 856-4593

DAVAO REGIONAL OFFICE

Rizal Street
8000 Davao City, Davao Del Sur
Tel No: (082) 227-1662; 221-0391;
225-0810; 221-0389
Fax No.: 221-0055
Sales: 221-0389

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Prevention best defense vs cancer

By Marlet D. Salazar

THERE is so much about life that you cannot afford not to enjoy. If you will only look around, the best things life has to offer might be just sitting in your home or in your office. For you to relish the joy of living, the first thing you have to consider is your health: physiological, mental and emotional.

But sometimes, living life to the fullest entails some risks. Whether you like it or not, you simply cannot discount the eventuality of certain diseases that may afflict people later on in their lives.

Cancer has hogged the limelight for many years because once upon a time, it was thought to be incurable. Although until now, advanced stages of cancers are, more often than not, impossible to cure. But even with the prevailing developments in technology and latest discoveries in medicine, there is still the nagging possibility of suffering from it.

In medical lingo, cancer is the abnormal growth of cells in an unusually rapid manner. This imbalance causes different organs to fail, or suffer, destroying other tissues and cells in the process, explained Dr. Antonio Villalon, a volunteer medical practitioner of the Philippine Cancer Society.

It is ironic that the incidence of cancer has incredibly increased over the years in spite of recent breakthroughs on drugs and medical equipment to help cure or if possible avert its growth.

Causes and symptoms

Dr. Villalon said direct causes of cancer are not completely known yet. "The cause (of cancer) is not fully explained or how certain environmental elements are associated with it," he said.

Statistics show 80 percent of the occurrence of cancer are caused by environmental factors; and the remaining 20 percent are hereditary. But inheriting cancer does not happen all the time in every family with one member afflicted by it. About one-third of all cancer deaths may be related to the kinds of food people eat.

Cancer can be prevented, that's one sure thing because most of the cases are caused by environmental factors.

One concrete example is lung cancer which tops the list in the Philippines. "This type of cancer is associated with smoking," stressed Dr. Villalon. Although there are some isolated cases of non-smokers who suffer from lung cancer, quitting the habit would greatly decrease the number of people — mostly men — who acquire it.

Based on the latest issue of the "2002 Cancer in the Philippines Vol. 3" the top five cancers that ails Filipinos are lung, breast, liver, cervix, and colon, in that order. And as of 1998, data show there are 72,000 Filipinos suffering from cancer every year.

Dr. Antonio Villalon

The symptoms of cancer are very common. The seven warning signs according to Dr. Villalon are: change in bowel movement, a sore that does not heal, unusual bleeding or discharge, thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere in the body, indigestion or difficulty in swallowing, obvious change in wart or mole, and persistent cough or hoarseness. But as doctors always advice, "if symptoms persist consult them immediately."

Prevention is the most effective defense against all kinds of diseases. "Having a healthy lifestyle will not only help prevent cancer," said Dr. Villalon, "but other ailments, too, like heart disease."

But what would a person do if in the most unfortunate circumstances he or she is afflicted by cancer?

The sad fact is treatment of cancer can be very costly.

Curable

"If detected early (most) cancers are curable," said Dr. Villalon.

The most common form of cancer that afflicts women today is breast cancer. If there is someone in the family who previously suffered from it, the offspring or immediate relatives may have the prerogative to go for a hormone treatment in an apparent attempt to prevent it. Women aged 50 to 60 are on high-risk to have breast cancer. There were very isolated cases of young women in the early 20s who had cancer.

"Others choose to undergo preventive mastectomy for benign tumor growth," said Dr. Villalon. But he does not advise women to submit to such kind of treatment if they are not sure if they really have cancer.

"These are very difficult things to do," he added.

Taking hormone tablets to prevent breast cancer may not be cost-effective at all. Aside from the fact that the medicines are very high-priced, it needed to be sustained for a number of years.

But most of the time the required treatment is surgery, which in any form is indeed very expensive although the chances of recovery is high.

Chemotherapy and radiation is one such treatment that helps prevent recurrence of cancer. It is given after the surgery.

Dr. Villalon also said the duration of the necessary treatment depends on what stage the cancer is. "On the average, six courses (of chemotherapy) are needed," he said. This form of treatment is considered a preventive one because advanced cancer as mentioned are oftentimes incurable.

According to Dr. Villalon there are two kinds of cancer patient population: those who can afford, which falls on the middle-income to high-income earners, and those who simply do not have the money to get well.

The cost of drugs and radiotherapy can be attributed to the considerable amount of time and money in continuing research and tests, as well as the invention of new machines. Experts are not stopping at trying to find the cause and treatment of cancer as it has claimed many lives over the years.

Right now the latest in radiation treatment is the Intensity Moderated Radiation therapy (IMRT). Because the machine could give better results than the initial Cobalt machine, the price could also be unimaginable for those who simply do not have the means.

Cancer, or any other diseases, for that matter can be prevented. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle by eating the right food, and if you cannot avoid, moderate consumption of so-called sin foods would save you from health worries later in life. Look after yourself first and foremost, because you have a family to care of, too.

Plan your life with this shield

ONCE a person discovers he is afflicted with cancer it is as if the world stopped. Then slowly, problems seep in: from emotional to financial.

Preparing for what might happen does not make an individual morose. It is always a good thing being prepared than being caught offguard in dire situations.

Philamlife knows what an individual or family needs in their life. With several environmental factors that cause cancer, it's sometimes unavoidable to foresee the eventuality.

After recovering from initial shock upon discovery, the burden of financial capability comes in.

Philamlife's Cancer Life Shield, a first in the Philippine insurance industry, is a health insurance policy that will cover the financial burdens of cancer treatment.

Don't let your life take a halt by worrying about so many things aside from the desire to get well. Getting well can be really costly only if you didn't prepare.

After being diagnosed with any form of cancer, the insured will receive cash that will cover the expenses of the entire treatment as recommended by the doctor. This is the Basic Benefit program of Cancer Life Shield.

Cancer generally requires surgery to help prevent its growth. There are people who do not have sufficient means for the required treatment. The health insurance policy can reimburse the total amount of the operation.

But it will not stop there because follow-up checkups to monitor the progress are necessary. Chemotherapy treatment may take four to six courses. To ensure that the finances will be able to cover the expenses, the insured can choose to avail himself or herself of the Quarterly Cash Support which will be given in 10 succeeding quarters.

PCSI president Francisco G. Dizon, MD and Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr. doing their Cancer Awareness pledge during the Cancer Life Shield product launch

The exorbitant cost of new medications ails the hope of the patient to get well. And there are cases in which patients need to stay longer in the hospital for a speedy recovery and close monitoring. The health insurance policy can give you as much as P4,000 daily to ease the burden of hospital expenses.

Routine visits to the doctor also spells a lot of money. And because you simply cannot afford to let go of the treatment, a daily cash support of P4,000 is also a supplementary benefit in the policy.

Nothing beats preparedness in life. Sickness and health must always be given much priority by any individual. Because we don't hold the future in our hands, better be armed when you face life's biggest tests.

PHILAM LIFE
CANCER
LIFE
SHIELD

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Mom always said life is worth living
because it's what we make of it that matters.

For someone diagnosed with cancer, life takes a whole new meaning. Every moment is cherished; no minute goes to waste. Before this happens to you, it would be wise to be prepared with Philamlife Cancer Life Shield. Should you be diagnosed with cancer, we will provide you with a lump sum benefit that you could use for costly medical treatments and consultations. This is a great help and a welcome reprieve considering that the Department of Health estimated cancer-related medical spending at P46.4 billion for 72,000 new cancer cases in 1998*. This translates to an average of P600,000 per year per patient in treatments alone--a huge sum that could deplete your family's life savings. With Philamlife Cancer Life Shield, you could let us take care of this little detail, because you've got more things in life to look forward to.

Talk to your Philamlife agent or call 528-2003.

CANCER
LIFE
SHIELD

TLC

PHILAM LIFE
Are you ready for life?

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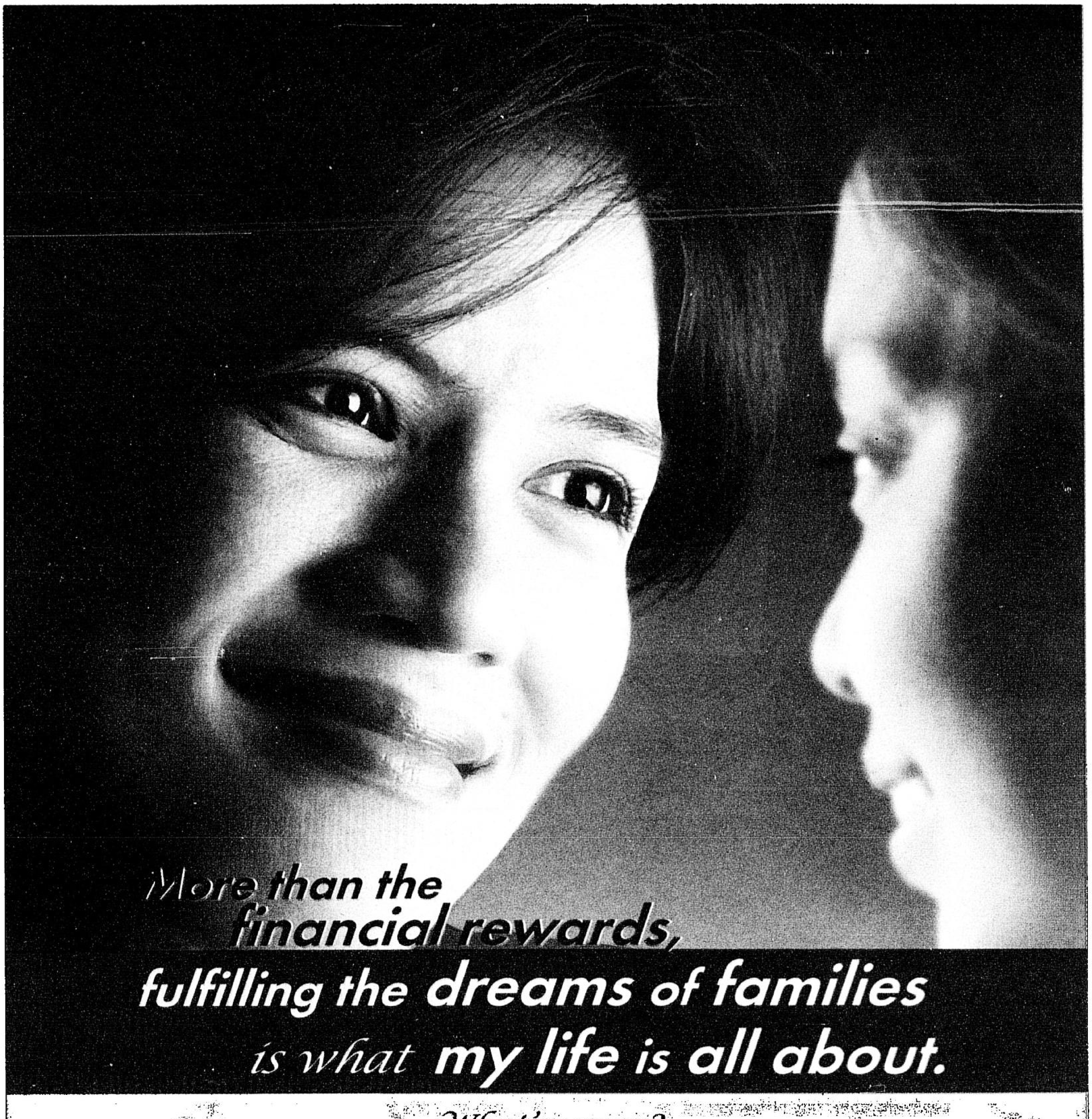
More than the
financial rewards,
fulfilling the dreams of families
is what my life is all about.

What's yours?

The job of a Philamlife agent is not for everyone. After all, people's hopes and dreams are at stake.
Here, you provide clients with solutions that answer their personal financial needs like savings and investment, education, pension and life protection.
To prepare you for this end, you will be trained with our knowledge and expertise honed through decades of service.

However, as a Philamlife agent, you are not merely taking care of others but you are also helping yourself and your loved ones. As a member of our team, you can receive unlimited income opportunities, car and mortgage loans, life and medical insurance, retirement plans and even travel opportunities.
Think you're ready for a life of service? Contact us and make a difference in someone's life today.

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